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SESSION 1859-60.

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The Matriculation Examinations, in the Faculty of Medicine, will commence on Tuesday, the 16th of October. Additional Matriculation Examinations will be held on Thursday, the 24th of November.

It is necessary for those Students only who intend to proceed for the degree of M.D. in the Queen's University, or to become Candidates for Scholarships, Exhibitions, or Prizes in the College.

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The Examinations for Scholarships and Exhibitions will commence on Thursday the 20th of October, and be proceeded with as laid down in the Statutes.

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Further information may be obtained by application to the Registrar, from whom copies of the Prospectus may be obtained.

By Order of the President;

W.M. LUPTON, M.A., Registrar.

1st September, 1859.

**UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW.** SESSION 1859-60.

The UNIVERSITY will be publicly OPENED by PRINCIPAL BARCLAY, on MONDAY, 31st October, at Twelve o'clock noon. The various Classes for the WINTER SESSION will meet on the Days and at the Hours specified below.

*LITERATURE AND PHILOSOPHY.*

TUESDAY, 1st November.

Classes	Hours	Professors.
Humanity, Junior	8 and 11 a.m.	
Senior	9 a.m. and 1 p.m.	Mr. Ramsay.
Private	1 p.m.	
Greek, Junior	12 noon	
Proverbial	12 noon	
Senior	8 a.m. and 2 p.m.	Mr. Lushington.
Private	2 p.m.	
Logic and Rhetoric	9 and 11 a.m.	Mr. Buchanan.
Modern Philosophy	8 and 11 a.m.	Mr. Buchanan.
Political Economy	9 a.m. and 1 p.m.	Dr. Fleming.
Natural Philosophy	9 and 11 a.m.	Mr. Wm. Thomson.
Experimental Course	9 a.m. Tu. and Sat.	Mr. Wm. Thomson.
Mathematics, Junior	12 noon	Mr. Blackburn.
Senior	10 a.m.	Mr. Rogers.
Astronomy	2 p.m.	
Civil Engineering and Mechanics	3 p.m.	Dr. Rankine.

*IL.—THEOLOGY.*

MONDAY, 7th November.

Divinity, Junior	9 a.m.	Dr. Hill.
Senior	12 noon	
Hebrew, Junior	10 a.m.	
Senior, Public	1 p.m.	
Private	9 a.m. Tu. and Wed.	Mr. Weir.

Chaldean	9 a.m. Tu. & Th.	Dr. Jackson.
Ecclesiastical History	11 a.m.	

*III.—LAW.*

TUESDAY, 8th November.

Roman Law	9 a.m.	Mr. Skene, Advocate.
Scottish Law, Merton	9 a.m.	

Wednesday

Private	9 a.m. Tu. and Wed.	Mr. Weir.
Fri.		

Dr. Jackson.

*IV.—MEDICINE.*

TUESDAY, 1st November.

Practice of Physic	10 a.m.	Dr. McFarlane.
Chemistry	10 a.m.	Dr. Anderson.
Practical Chemistry	12 noon	
Chemical Laboratory	9 a.m. to 4 p.m.	Dr. Allen, Thomson and Demonstrator.
Anatomy	11 a.m.	
Anatomical Dissection	10 a.m. to 4 p.m.	Dr. Walker-Arnott.
Practical Anatomy	10 a.m. to 4 p.m.	Dr. Rainy.
Botany (in Summer)	12 noon	Dr. Easton.
Materia Medica	3 p.m.	Dr. Parker.
Physiology	3 p.m.	Dr. Buchanan.
Institute of Medicine	4 p.m.	Dr. Lawrie.
Surgery	5 p.m.	Dr. Mackenzie and Dr. W. Brown.
Eye, (Waltonian) Lect.	6 p.m.	

**MATRICULATION.**—By Regulation of the Senate, every Student must, at the beginning of the Session, be admitted into the University by enrolling his name in the University-Almanac at the Library before the 1st of October. The Library will be open for the purpose of Matriculation on and after Wednesday, 16th October, from 11 to 3 o'clock daily, with the intervention of the holidays at the Sacrament. The Matriculation Fee has been fixed by ordinance of the University Commission at 10*s.* for the Winter Session, and 6*s.* for the Summer Session.

By order of the Senate.

DUNCAN H. WEIR, A.M., Clerk.

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At the ANNUAL MEETING, which will occur in April next, the BOARD OF MANAGEMENT will consider the VARIATION of the FIFTH RULE, so as to allow of RECEIVING CASES for LIFE. If this shall be, as they hope, approved, the POLL will be OPENED at that Election to TAKE FIVE CASES for LIFE, in addition to the ordinary cases. It must be understood that the new rule will be limited to those who have had a first election of five years. They have reason to know that the present provision will be highly acceptable to many of the best friends of the Charity, and they doubt not that they shall have proportionate support, if called on to take up increasing responsibilities.

For full account of the work of this Institution, see the pamphlet by the Rev. Edwin Sydney, A.M., Rector of Cornhill, Suffolk, entitled "A Visit to Earlswood," and to their last Annual Report, both of which may be had gratis on application to the Office, where an application will be thankfully received, and every information cheerfully supplied.

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## LITERATURE

*The Great Tribulation; or, the Things coming on the Earth.* By the Rev. John Cumming, D.D. (Bentley.)

It seems to be generally understood, and the remark is frequently repeated by our most popular speakers and writers, that we live in an extraordinary age. The circumstance may not be the happiest imaginable for the individual persons concerned, but there is no use denying or disguising it. Events happen so entirely contrary to general expectation, and succeed each other with such electric rapidity, that he must be a singularly immodest or a peculiarly gifted man who endeavours to prophesy to-day what will occur to-morrow. The most inconsistent statesman cannot depend upon the temper of his constituency. The most heterogeneous cabinet, equally with the happiest family party, is not secure against division, defection, or dissolution. How many Imperial persons have seen their fondest hopes decay! We all know how painfully disappointing it was for the Liberator of Italy to witness the evanescence of those "noble illusions" which danced, or were dangled, before the eye of his friend Kossuth? None of us are proof against political or private caprice. The favourite actor, or preacher, is a daring man, who builds or hires his mansion, or erects his capacious tabernacle, upon the security of light-winged popular favour. In these days, there is little use in being financially shrewd or politically knowing. The airiest speculator loses his elasticity of wing, and the simple believer in the certainty of the three per cents. has occasional misgivings. Great as may be the delight of accumulating money by cutting capers on a tight-rope stretched over the Falls of Niagara, or swinging head downwards from the car of a balloon, the steady pacers upon *terra firma* have a rooted objection to essaying the paths of air, from an old superstition or theory in some way connecting them with gravitation. It would seem that the world has entered upon a new—that is, a celestial—era, and we mundane people are not thoroughly alive to the novelty of our position. New theories of probabilities are required, and the calculation of new tables of assurance. We want a new code of ethics, and something statistical and arithmetical by way of a creed. On week-days, generally speaking, we want philosophers; on Sundays, and all solemn occasions, we want prophets.

The Rev. John Cumming, D.D., judging from the number and the continual supply of his vaticinations, is a commodity peculiarly demanded by the age. Like the medical preparations which are so universally esteemed and swallowed, the Doctor's compositions are carefully calculated, weighed out in very convenient doses, and adapted to the use of every kind of Christian. The tendency of the age is a melancholy one; and the Rev. Dr. Cumming thoroughly sympathizes with it. He does not weep himself, but he does, perhaps, the next best thing—he bids the age to buy his publications, directing it to weep. By a chronological test and mode of calculation peculiarly his own, he knows at what time, or *about* what time, a terrific state of things will occur in our planet, as he explains in a series of volumes. We have a dozen or more lying before us, which are all exhortative and alarming. Some of his books, he informs us with a pleasing egotism, were written for himself, and, having "interested and instructed his own mind, he indulged the hope they would not fail to

interest the minds of others also." The best evidence of the value of the work, the author believes, is the sale. Like the aforesaid medical preparations, thousands of them have sold; and the only apparent difficulty Dr. Cumming has is to multiply, republish, and continually expand them.

The Rev. J. Cumming has, for a number of years, occupied an important pulpit position as minister of the "Scotch Church" in Crown Court, and an important platform position whenever a religious meeting is held in Exeter Hall. His discourses are remarkably attractive, and his religious works are advertised as having "an unprecedented popularity." Considering merely the number of them, and the space they fill in the catalogue, it might seem that Dr. Cumming had taken out a patent for religious writing or had discovered some peculiar method of easily multiplying religious impressions. He has provided for every kind of religious want; and his works are so composed as to suit almost every kind of denomination. It appears to be almost impossible to do anything without the aid of Dr. Cumming. That balm which the late Dr. Solomon endeavoured to shed over the secular world, the labours of Dr. Cumming seem to diffuse over the religious. Literally translated, he may be called "a communicator of oil." If you desire to be comfortable, his prescriptions have a tendency to make you more so. On the other hand, if you desire to be uncomfortable and alarmed, the Doctor is provided with a series of vials, which he will pour forth and cast upon you explosively.

From infancy upwards, from the patriarchal to the present time, Dr. Cumming appears to have considered the different modes of life, and systematically to have written for them. There is Dr. Cumming's "Guide to Daily Family Devotion," with gilt edges,—a work which everybody ought to have who can afford it. "The prayers in the volume, and their arrangement, have occupied the spare hours of a very busy life for four years. They are not what the author would prefer." Still, as the author modestly hints, they are far from defective. "They have one only excellence in their structure. They are as simple as Saxon phraseology would enable him to make them," and, he hints, "as Scriptural, Evangelical, and Protestant as any." The writer trusts that, "by their generality and commonness, they are suited for every class and type"; "they may be induced by this work to begin a blessed habit"; though the price for doing so is somewhat expensive, being a guinea, or, with twenty-four embellishments, 1*l.* 5*s.* After this the reader will not be surprised to learn that Dr. Cumming's "Daily Life" is captivating and animated, or that his "Evening Readings" may "prove useful to schools, families *far off from an edifying and instructive ministry*, to travellers, and many others who have *neither time, nor talent, nor taste* to investigate," as the author has done, "learned and elaborate works." Dr. Cumming's "Consolations; or, Leaves from the Tree of Life" are "fresh in their lovely verdure," and "impregnated with sweet odours." This image naturally brings us to the Doctor himself, presented in what is called a "pet sketch":—

"Perhaps none of those frequent speakers who have been jocularly called the 'London standing dishes,' are so generally popular, unless it be Mr. Stowell. This is not matter of surprise, for he has everything in his favour—his singularly handsome person, his brilliant flow of poetic thoughts, his striking 'talents,' and his burning Protestant zeal, combine to make him one of the most interesting speakers of the day. Mr. Cumming is very small in person, not exceeding 5 feet 4 or 5 inches in height, with a slender and graceful figure. His

face is one of the most beautiful I have ever seen, for he is altogether too diminutive to be called strictly handsome. His hair is of a jet black, with a soft waving curl upon it; his complexion resembles alabaster, with a deep damask colour; his forehead is high and finely formed, and his eyes are concealed by 'invisible spectacles.' His nose is aquiline, but not large; and the lower part of his face is as perfect as that of some Greek statue, with the addition of beautiful teeth. Altogether, he is what his countrymen call 'a very bonnie chiel,' and he would be really incomparable were he only magnified. His manner is very unassuming; he never puts himself forward, but remains behind the other speakers; while silent, he has all the meekness of a young child; but when he speaks he displays all the vigour and energy of a young eagle."

There is an odd story about this sketch. We have heard, it may simply be a rumour, that when a reverend gentleman was acting as editor of a metropolitan magazine, a little work, called 'Sweepings of Exeter Hall,' appeared. Was it in January, 1839; and did the reverend review it?—complimenting the publisher as "a cannie Scot," and a "paukie good fellow," and commendable "for the thorough abhorrence he cherishes for all voluntary bantlings, births, brick meeting-houses, and plaster preachers"? Did he then specify "Cumming and Duff as the only popular Scotch preachers"? and express his dissatisfaction with the oratory of Irving, Chalmers, Jeffrey, Campbell, and Brougham, who was "a complete moral wreck, and a savage." After enumerating Croly, O'Sullivan, Cooke, McNeill, McGhee, and Totterham, "as widely known," did he then give the following comment? "We quote this as perhaps the pet sketch from the pen of the fair authoress. We heard this favourite of her fancy in one of the defences of the Church; and for a verdict on that single effort at Freemasons' Hall, in 1837, we refer to all the papers and periodicals of the day. *It was triumphant in all points.* But we confess we should have preferred a longer sketch of the Scottish presbyterian intellect, a shorter one of his person, less about his nose, eyes, wig, &c., and more about better qualities. We have heard him ourselves, once in the way, in a big, square box up a court between the two theatres, called by courtesy a Scottish Church, and we now venture to lay a bet that the reverend gentleman is nearer six feet than five, and as to his attractive exterior, we confess we went to hear his sermon and forgot to notice it. *It strikes us that he is a comely enough specimen of humanity.*" This strikes us as curious enough.

We will pass on, however, to the Scottish presbyterian intellect as it appears in his "Apocalyptic Sketches," and "Signs of the Times." The Rev. John Cumming is nothing if not prophetic. Antichrist is his hobby, and the end of the world the source of his attractiveness. Cumming's stupendous events,—Cumming's immediate close of the era,—Cumming's drying up of the Euphrates,—Babylon,—earthquakes,—comets,—extraordinary physical and moral phenomena,—universal war, and last of all, Cumming's Great Tribulation, are the prospects with which the Scottish Doctor regales the religious world, and solicits men in general to buy his warnings. From the earliest date vaticination, if it has not been a trade, has continually had a charm for vacant men. To seclude oneself like an owl in some warm and picturesque nook, shut one's eyes on the world's daylight doings, and then only to emerge and hoot dismal when men naturally long for rest and comfort after their hard labours, may be satisfactory to the individual owl; but is, to say the least, a selfish proceeding. The date fixed for the end of the world has

always varied in every age. Great tribulation has been continually coming. Eusebius tells us that one Judas, discoursing in his works upon the seventy weeks of Daniel, fixed that account of time to the tenth year of the reign of Severus, and was of opinion that the dreaded appearance of Antichrist drew near. Dionysius of Alexandria interpreted it of the time of Valerian. Then, most certainly on the completion of 1,000 years universal judgment would take place; and when Lady-day should fall on Easter Eve without doubt the world would come to an end. From Baronius we learn that Norbert, Archbishop of Prague, said that he knew Antichrist was to appear in the time of Bernard. Pope Pascal the Second had ordered his progress into Lombardy, but upon a report that Antichrist was suddenly about to appear, he deemed it prudent to halt at Florence. On consideration, however, and "understanding the vanity of that discourse," he prosecuted his intended journey. In 1364 Joannes, a Minorite Friar, foretold strange matters that were to come to pass. Then there was a certain Nicholas a Baldersdorf, who appeared at the Council of Basle, surnamed himself the Angelic Pastor, and proclaimed that by him Antichrist should be destroyed—the Jews delivered from captivity—the Church collected from all nations—and the wicked extirpated: for which proclamation he was punished. The Anabaptists of Munster displayed the same fanatical arrogance. Then, we have Commenius and Scipio directing princes and prime-ministers by rules which they pretended to have derived from the prophecies of Daniel and St. John. After them follow the prophecies of Christopher Kotterus, Christina Poniatovia, and Nic. Drelicius, three famous Germans. Then, Cardinal Cusanus, in the fifteenth century, makes a curious conjecture, under the title of a correction of the Julian calendar, about the last day. This occurrence he tells us will take place either in 1700, or certainly before the year 1734. The method by which he computes so punctually is as follows:—He takes fifty years for a jubilee, and computes thirty-four jubilees from the time of Christ's resurrection to that of his second coming. The logic is curious. "For as according to Philo, the destruction of sin arrived in the thirty-fourth jubilee after the first Adam, by the waters of the flood, *so we conjecture* that in the thirty-fourth jubilee after the second Adam shall arrive the destruction of sin by the fire of the Holy Ghost." All these early prophetical gentlemen were distinguished for a great warmth of brain and a want of clerical calmness. M. Jurien, an old French prophet, announces tranquilly, and with the air of a *savant*—"Antichristianism was born about the year 450: it shall die about the year 1710. This may happen sooner. But I do not see it can go much further, unless it be to 1714."

The world's age he thus calculates:—"I suppose that 30 years shall pass for the re-uniting of all Christians; and this union shall be effected about the year 1740. When the union shall be effected, no less than 45 years will be requisite to run over all the earth and convert the nations that are strangers to the covenant. Add 45 to 1740, that will fall on the year 1785, in which date will occur the glorious reign of Christ." This was a period remarkably productive of prophets. In the Cevennes, two or three hundred of them sprang up like mushrooms in a night. They lay sprawling in the snow till some one took them up and laid them on their back; then, "with eyes shut, as a man that sleeps," the prophet "fell a preaching and prophesying." There were Antient British prophets, of a fine occult style. Taliesin, for instance, who was fished up out

of the sea, and consoled the poor fisherman, who thought he had made an unfortunate haul, "telling him that he would be better to him than 300 salmons, as he had a gift upon his tongue." This gentleman found it necessary to exhort his captor "not to be terrified." He knew the stars from the north to the south,—he had been in the ark with Noah and Alpha,—he was "the chief keeper or conductor at the building of the Tower of Babel, and had received the gift of prophecy from the boiling furnace of Caridwin, a female giant that lived in North Wales." As to his physiological condition, it was impossible to say "whether he was fish or flesh." As a sample of the style of literary address used by these gentlemen, and their difficulties, the following extract may serve:—"Reader, thou art here presented with many antient prophecies—some of eleven and others of twelve hundred years' antiquity. The rest very antient; but for want of a corrector sufficiently intelligent in the British tongue, that part of the book (the Antient British) has not escaped the press free from *errata*." But not one in this batch of prophets can compare in calmness and audacity with Richard Brothers, who "in a most candid, unreserved, and interesting manner, published to the world his interpretations," and in a great measure anticipated Dr. Cumming, in 1795. He was visited by the pious and the learned. The unassumed modesty of the man, the placidity and benevolence of his countenance, and the temperate habits of his life, gained for him general respect. He observes in his 'Prophetic and Apocalyptic Sketches,' "that days are mentioned by the angel instead of years to conceal the mystery of the prophecy until the proper time, and the appointed person for it to be revealed to."—"The present is the time that was intended: I am the appointed person for it to be revealed to, and the prophet commanded to make it known. The Jews would return to their own land in 1798. The prophet alluded to in Malachi is a prophet who will make known the divine judgments (that is, publish books, and give his interpretations) that all nations' may be benefited. He may endeavour to survive them (the judgments) when they are commanded to be fulfilled." Some of the prophecies he interprets in one way, others in the opposite way; but this he does by authority. Very strange physical phenomena were exhibited in 1791, just as Dr. Cumming notes in the present year. "The very loud and unusual kind of thunder heard in January, 1791, was the voice of the angel mentioned in the 18th chapter of Revelations." At the time of the loud thunder, this gentleman had the audacity to say, "that the Lord was so exceedingly angry that he determined to leave his other judgments unfulfilled, and to burn London immediately with fire." The prophet was directed to remove to the distance of eighteen miles, and was not allowed to inform the metropolis of its danger, lest the authorities "should imprison him and use him very ill." He desired, however, that the Lord would cease to remove "a certain number of persons, specified by sickness and other causes, to a sufficient distance beyond the limits to be destroyed." The 15th of August, 1793, was the time appointed for the destruction of London. The event was, however, postponed, and Prophet Brothers disappoints us only with the intelligence of the physical aspect of the country in case his prophecy had come to pass. The destruction of Popery has been repeatedly foretold. Mr. Love, in Cromwell's time, fixed it for 1790, and in 1797 it was to be complete. In 1800 the stars were to wander, and the moon to be

turned into blood. The whole world was to tremble in 1803; in 1805 there would be a universal earthquake, after which religious dissension was to cease. An old Cheshire prophet foretold a good time coming—"When an oak tree shall be softer than men's hearts, then look for better times." An old Suffolk woman broke forth into prophecy in 1764—"Write, write, the Spirit says write; the High Priest, the High Priest shall never have another Christmas dinner."

When Dr. Cumming first published the 'Apocalyptic Sketches' he had no idea that they would reach to twelve editions. "The volume," he tells us, "has attained a very large circulation indeed,—and has excited, as numerous letters addressed to me show, very general attention." Considering the Apocalypses as "a drama, a holy, an inspired drama," Dr. Cumming interpreted it to the crowds in Exeter Hall dramatically. What had puzzled many learned men he interpreted fluently and readily. The horses in the vision, "with breastplates of fire, and of jacinth and brimstone, their heads as the heads of lions," fire and brimstone issuing out of their mouths, he interpreted as meaning cannon. Those strange tails, too, which "were like unto serpents and had heads, and with them men do hurt," were unravelled to mean—Pashas with one, or two, or three tails. The angel, with his face like the sun, was the Reformation and Luther,—an interpretation which enabled him to publish sixty pages upon Luther's life. Taking the vials in the Revelations in one hand, and Alison's History in the other, Dr. Cumming came to the conclusion that the French Revolution was intended, and that in order to understand St. John or Daniel it was necessary to be in possession of the Scotch historian. The exegetical end with which Sir Archibald Alison supplied Dr. Cumming in his former volumes, Lord Carlisle, in his little work upon Daniel, affords to the Author of 'The Great Tribulation.' We have a respect for Lord Carlisle—*quoad* Lord Carlisle; but surely it is not necessary for him or his little work—a paraphrase in heroic verse of a chapter of Daniel—to be quoted three times as having a vast bearing upon the subject.

The Author of 'The Great Tribulation' loves a title, and reverences an opinion uttered by any connexion of a titled person. Thus, the opinion of the late Rev. Robert Bickersteth is apparently enhanced in value from his being "the uncle of the present Bishop of Ripon"; and a judgment upon history "made in scorn," has great force, inasmuch as it proceeds from the mouth of "a great statesman and gifted orator, still alive, though arrived at a great age." 'The Great Tribulation' itself, is, to use the expression of Dr. Cumming, "an expansion" of his 'Signs of the Times,' and, perhaps, of a few chapters in the 'Apocalyptic Sketches.' A remark made "by some one" at page 22 of the former work, now turns out to be what "a great statesman and gifted orator said," and an "interesting fact" noticed, relative to human nature as being substantially the same in the days of Napoleon and Noah, is varied by an allusion to the times of Queen Victoria. 'The Great Tribulation' is prefaced by a favourite remark of the author's, which is almost a model of verbosity. "It is impossible for the most thoughtless to overlook the impressive and almost unprecedented character of the age in which we live." Startling events chase each other. There are abnormal, physical, political, and social conditions—"Disease, during the last ten years has steadily struck with destructive blight the potato and the vine, men and cattle, with a force and frequency surely unusual; and the

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only explanation scientific investigation has arrived at is, just that stated in prophecy as the effect of the last vial, a morbid taint or influence 'in the air.' Moreover, 'from the pine-forests of the North to the palm-groves of the East, has the social atmosphere become charged with irritant and disturbing elements, which explode in succession.' Nor 'is the commercial air less convulsed.' 'Banks' have 'exploded one after another.' Dr. Cumming then imitates Zadkiel. 'The great time of trouble began in 1848, at which the first shock of the great European earthquake occurred; its succeeding shocks still steadily occur, year after year. In 1849, Europe, Asia, America, were desolated by an overwhelming pestilence. *Rome made its last spasmodic grasp or clutch at the sceptre of England.* In 1851, we had a bright glimpse (the Crystal Palace), by way of symbol, earnest or type of millennial peace.' From 1854, and subsequently, a series of political complications. Dr. Cumming has 'stated before, what many thought impossible, that Russia's destiny was the East.' It may be interesting to fearful Englishmen to learn that our prophetic author believes that 'our own land—whatever be the combination that girdles it—even as if it should girdle it with fire—is destined to emerge *comparatively unscathed.*' The reason of this belief is, that 'we separated from the great Apostacy, and God has blessed us.' Ringing the prophetic 'alarm-bell, that sounds the last sands of this dispensation,' Dr. Cumming enumerates the signs of the times. 'Palestine, which is now the property of the Sultan, will be somebody's.' Look at Athens, 'once the eye of Greece,' now 'a mere nest of bandits that cannot appreciate its magnificent ruins, and would sell them all as readily as Esau his birthright for a mess of pottage.' Then we have a series of Pinnock-like questions and answers. 'Where is the ancient Greek?—As likely in Austria as in Athens?' 'Why are the Jews the great money-lenders, money-brokers, and capitalists?—That they may be ready to depart when the signal is displayed in the skies, and domesticate themselves in their own home, Jerusalem.' 'What are Alison and Macaulay?—what are the newspapers that appear every morning?—Simply amanuenses to Providence.' Then there are the pantheistic signs of the times, 'inaugurated by Carlyle and Emerson'; the Papal sign—'what office would lessen the Pontifical life for five years?' The religious signs—'a bank established in Constantinople'; and, 'oh! terrible blow to the bigoted Moslem, the Sultan actually giving his arm to the lady of the representative of our sovereign'; these are the material signs—commencing with the appearance 'of a star of unusual brilliancy over the Mount of Olives, and the submarine telegraph, which has almost a mediatorial beauty.'

As an example of the real, prophetic, or astrological strain take the following vision of the final conflagration:

'The same flame, fulfilling its mission, seizes on St. Paul's in our own metropolis, and upon the lowliest chapel that stands or sinks under its broad shadow; and vestments, croziers, altars, shrines, images, pictures, monuments, encaustic tiles, and all that men loved, that some almost worshipped, and good taste appreciated, are reduced to ashes in the devouring and the overwhelming fire. I look to another part of the world; I see, what must pain some, the library of our great Museum, the yet more precious library of the Vatican at Rome, reached by the all-devouring and unspared fire. I see the works of Gibbon, and Voltaire, and Rousseau, and Shelley, and Byron cast into the flame; and as they are consumed they send forth volumes of sulphurous and intolerable smoke. I see the works of Milton, and Shakspeare, and

Scott, and the master spirits of every age of our country blazing in the flames, while they shoot up only in brilliant sparks that have all the splendour of the lightning, and all its evanescence too. I see newspapers, monthlies, quarterlies, all cast into the flame, and reduced to tinder. But strange exception! wondrous spectacle! I see one book cast into that devouring, red heap; the flames seem to retreat from it, the red fire seems afraid to touch it.'

There is one 'good, common-sense illustration' in the book. About sixty years ago the end of the world was expected in the United States. A total eclipse of the sun betokened the event. Congress happened to be sitting; and two or three members proposed an adjournment. An old member rose up: 'Mr. Chairman,' he said, 'we are told that our duties are always imminent. Some in this house are afraid that the last day is come,—it may be they are right; but as our duties never cease, instead of moving that the house adjourn as we cannot see in this darkness to do business, I move that candles be brought in, and that we proceed to the order of the day.' We conclude by quoting to Dr. Cumming his own interpretation of a verse of Daniel—'Go thy way; that is, mind your business—mind your work—attend to your duty'—and on our part, we may add, in 'preaching' and writing avoid anachronisms and anticlimaxes.

*The Minister's Wooing.* By H. Beecher Stowe. (Low & Co.)

In this novel, the leading events of which, the preface informs us, are 'founded on actual facts,' and the principal characters of which are historic, Mrs. Stowe endeavours to depict the manners and austere religious life of New England at the close of the last century. She especially commends her work to the kindly thoughts of the British fireside,—a compliment which we predict the British public will repay by asking for the story at the circulating libraries, and in due course coming to the conclusion that, notwithstanding numerous blemishes which go a long way towards counterbalancing its merits, it is a tale to be read, and for nine days to be talked about. The critical few will find amusement in comparing an American lady's description of the 'Transatlantic Puritanism, to which Whitfield imparted fresh earnestness more than hundred years ago, with the light satiric view taken of the same subject by Mr. Thackeray in 'The Virginians.'

'The Minister's Wooing' is a love tale, a religious novel, and an historic—or, rather, biographic—fiction, all in one. Regarded as the first, it deserves almost unqualified praise; judged of as the second, it merits a certain amount of blame; but viewed as an illustration of history, it is open to very grave censure. The opening chapters (as we indicated last December) induce the reader to hope he is going to be treated with a series of simple domestic episodes, although his feelings are early harrowed with an enumeration of the horrors of the slave trade. But, unfortunately, these expectations are to a certain extent disappointed, and the whole question of negro emancipation is dragged up for re-discussion. In this the author has acted very unwisely. With all its mis-statements and one-sidedness, exaggeration, and reticence, 'Uncle Tom's Cabin' was a powerful story, and created a memorable sensation,—equal, perhaps, to that caused amongst educated English people almost two hundred years before by Afric Behn's 'Oroonoko,' the first 'nigger novel' of our literature. Mrs. Stowe would have decided well for her fame if, imitating the caution of Hamilton with his famous speech, she had allowed this brill-

iant success to remain in solitary splendour, and had not lessened its effect by endeavouring to repeat it. The reception that 'Dred' met with in this country must have convinced her that her English admirers were weary of listening to the cracking of Legree's whip, and that their craving for imagined woes must for some time to come be gratified with more refined sorrows than the tortures of slave-markets and plantations down South. Very likely Mrs. Stowe is well aware of all this; for the tone of her arguments against slavery in the present work is milk and honey in comparison with the scalding indignation of the story that first brought her into notoriety. There is a wide difference between the inspired angel of abolition who penned 'Uncle Tom's Cabin' and the calm, argumentative lady who, in 'The Minister's Wooing,' is content with coldly enunciating the moral obligation of all men to help the oppressed. And this change can only be accounted for on the supposition that, either she has so far outlived the ardour of her earlier impressions that what a few years since would have been the language of fervid poetry, is now nothing more than a mere habit of sermonizing,—or else that, accurately appreciating the state of public feeling, she only breathes gently on the embers of a dying enthusiasm, well knowing that a stronger current of air would altogether extinguish the feeble sparks that still linger in them.

The scheme of that part of the story on which the rest of the narrative is hung is simple and pretty enough. The drama opens with a tea-party in the parlour of the Widow Scudder, who is a lady blessed with a small farm and a 'gambrel-roofed' cottage on the outskirts of Newport, a charming daughter (the heroine)—a sweet little maiden just emerging from childhood,—and a high reputation for the possession of 'faculty,' the precise meaning of which term may be found in the *Athenæum* for December 25, 1858.

The principal inmate of the Widow Scudder's house is Dr. H., the minister, who does the wooing, a divine of extreme Calvinistic opinions, of pure life and of a gentle nature,—a man dwelling in a world of spiritual abstractions, guileless and simple-minded as a child, austere in his habits, and of inflexible firmness of principle. Studious and abstracted, he is a kind of Coleridge divested of poetic faculty, and imbued with moral stability. The good man is a bachelor, something over forty years of age, and besides officiating zealously amongst his congregation, ministering to his afflicted black brethren, and writing a profound system of divinity, finds time to act to the fair Mary Scudder (his landlady's daughter) the part that Abelard did to Heloise. He is her tutor in religious and secular studies, and she, in return, instructs him in the art of loving; but, unlike Heloise of old, Mary only conceives for him that reverential affection which a young maiden naturally entertains for her pastor, who appears to her as the expression of all the goodness that is possible in humanity. The Widow Scudder would gladly see her daughter love the pastor dearly enough to wish to be his wife; but the meek, gentle child, wilful in one thing only, bestows her heart on a wicked scapergate of a cousin, James Marvyn, who, having run away from home and been to sea, returns from foreign countries to laugh at the sanctimonious ways of the godly people of Newport, and to question the doctrine of election and predestination. The young man, of course, is condemned, by the surrounding respectability, as utterly reprobate, and poor little Mary is continually being informed that her cousin, her playmate from infancy, her dearest cousin, is

doomed to eternal perdition. The child has also, amongst other tenets of that religion which Calvinism, grafted on the stern nature of the Puritan colonists, called into existence, has been taught that it is her duty to contemplate the idea of her own eternal punishment with lively pleasure, if, by such suffering, the happiness of mankind at large could be increased. Naturally she applies this terrible doctrine to the state of her own mind in relation to her cousin, until she feels she could willingly surrender herself a sacrifice to never-ending torment, in order to secure him admission to an eternity of bliss. One afternoon James has a stolen interview with her, to say farewell, as next day he is about to start on a long voyage. After much earnest and pathetic conversation on religion, which we extracted when noticing the first number of this work, James gives her a parting kiss, and once more goes off to sea. The voyage is one of disaster. The ship is wrecked, and news comes home that James Marvyn is drowned. The intelligence well nigh kills poor little Mary, and for many a day she seems going "the downward way to death." Her mother, who has become possessed of her darling's secret, watches her narrowly, anxiously, and prayerfully. But Mary does not die. Her physical strength is gradually restored to her, and though her heart is saddened for life, she prepares, like the noble self-sacrificing girl she is, to forget her own woes as much as possible and to devote her life to making others happy. Time passes on; and Dr. H., who has comforted her in her sorrow and sickness, ignorant of the nature of the wound her affections have suffered, begs her to be his wife. To gratify her mother, to make a good man happy, and to secure to herself a field of usefulness, Mary accepts him. The wedding clothes are provided, and the day for her marriage is fixed,—ay, the day is not a week distant on which January and May are to be united together,—and Mary is training herself to look cheerfully on her future as the bride of the good and venerable Dr. H.; when, one fine morning, as she walks in solitary meditation in the fields, a voice is heard behind her, and a quick step beats the ground, and an arm is put round her waist, and she falls fainting in her true lover's arms! Instead of being drowned, James Marvyn has returned home rich. The rest of all this pretty romance can be imagined. Mary acknowledges to James that he has her heart; but she is, nevertheless, determined to keep her promise,—her solemn engagement to good Dr. H., and bids her lover not to hinder her from doing her duty. There is a pause of uncertainty and suspense. The awful day draws nearer; but ere it has arrived, a jolly little dressmaker, Miss Prissy, who acts the part of an amiable sprite all through the play, informs the Doctor of the state of the case. The fine-hearted man takes all the sorrow of the position to himself, surrenders the timid child he loves so dearly to the man of her choice, and sets his face resolutely forward to do his duty in that unwedded life which it seems Providence has designed for him:

"You all know," he said, turning to Mary, who sat very near him, "the near and dear relation in which I have been expecting to stand towards this friend; I should not have been worthy of that relation if I had not felt in my heart the true love of a husband as set forth in the New Testament; who should 'love his wife even as Christ loved the church and gave himself for it'; and if in case any peril or danger threatened this dear girl, and I could not give myself for her, I had never been worthy the honour she has done me. For I take it, wherever there is a cross or a burden to be borne by one or the other, that the man who is made in the image of God, as to strength and

endurance, should take it upon himself, and not lay it upon her that is weaker; for he is therefore strong, not that he may tyrannize over the weak, but bear their burdens for them, even as Christ for his church. I have just discovered," he added, looking kindly upon Mary, "that there is a great cross and burden which must come, either on this dear child or on myself, through no fault of either of us, but through God's good providence; and, therefore, let me bear it. Mary, my dear child, I will be to thee as a father; but I will not force thy heart."

This is touching, and well told. But how does it all square with the facts on which the story is founded? Who is this good Dr. H.?—this pattern minister, so forgetful of himself where the happiness of others is concerned, who, subsequent to the Declaration of Independence, is represented as forty years of age, childless and unwived? He is no other than the celebrated Samuel Hopkins, D.D., pastor of the first Congregational Church in Newport, and co-founder with Jonathan Edwards of that awful, that indescribably ferocious system of Calvinistic theology, known as the Hopkintonian or Hopkinsian. But, unfortunately for the truthfulness of Mrs. Stowe's tale, Samuel Hopkins was born in the year 1721, and did not settle in Newport till the year 1770. Consequently, instead of being forty at the outset of his wooing (which commences after the recognition of American Independence by England), he must be regarded as more than sixty years old. But further:—Dr. Hopkins married, in 1748, Joanna Ingersoll, who presented him with eight children, and lived with him, as his wife, till her death, on the last day of August in 1793. And on the 14th of September, 1794, the Doctor, then in his seventy-fourth year, married again, taking for his second wife Miss Elizabeth West, a lady only sixteen or seventeen years younger than himself. It is a matter of certainty that Samuel Hopkins was in no respect such a man as Mrs. Stowe has depicted him. It is true that he was an Abolitionist, and published, in 1776, "A Dialogue concerning the Slavery of the Africans"; but, instead of being a shiftless dreamer, incapable of looking after his worldly interests, and wanting a religious landlady to rouse him up and tell him when he was hungry, he was a keen and energetic man, and as well able to make a bargain as any other citizen of the United States. Although he owned a farm, and made considerable sums by his literary productions, he threatened to quit his congregation at Newport if they could not provide comfortably for him; and Mrs. Stowe can scarcely be ignorant of how active he was in organizing prayer-meetings amongst his flock.

Such misrepresentations as these altogether overstep the limits which ought to restrain the imagination of a writer of historic fiction. In such composition it is allowable to exercise the imagination in amplifying and giving colour to the views of history, by the creation of any series of positions and incidents which are in accordance with recorded facts. But surely a too daring disregard of veracity is exhibited by the writer who professes to sketch the life of an eminent person, and at the same time misrepresents it in the most important particulars. What object can Mrs. Stowe have in saying that her story is founded on facts, when the master-incident of the book is pure fiction? Are "the facts" of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" of a similar kind?

Other historical characters besides Dr. Hopkins are brought on the stage, but not with greater felicity. Col. Aaron Burr figures away with Madame de Frontignac, deluging that lady, and all the rest of the fair sex whom he addresses, with very awkward adulmentation. But

this is a slight fault, and one easily accounted for. Doubtless, it has been Mrs. Stowe's province throughout life to receive rather than to pay compliments.

We cannot discuss at length the religious side of this novel. In that respect it forms a striking contrast to the Tales of Miss Sewell, being marked by a boldness of speculation and language which one would in vain look for in the writings of our own countrywomen. It is, we are willing to believe, written in a devout and reverential spirit: but it is to be regretted that one of the saddest exhibitions of the perverseness of the human intellect, when directed to the contemplation of sacred mysteries, should have been dragged into a pretty love story to disfigure and even to mar it. The picture of Mrs. Marvyn's agony on hearing of her son's death, and her despair of his salvation, is as revolting a spectacle of spiritual suffering as Uncle Tom dying under the whips of his persecutors was of bodily torture. If the book should become popular, its success will be won, not by its polemical qualities, but by the winning graces of the heroine and her little friend of the great world, Virginie. In the construction and elaboration of Mary's character genuine artistic power is manifested. In conception it lacks originality, for in many respects she is a combination of Longfellow's *Evangeline*, and that form of young-ladyism which has for some years been fashionable in American novels; and many features of her mind and incidents of her life have been taken with judicious selection from the numerous Puritan memoirs, which formed an important division of American literature in the last and few preceding generations. The "Memoirs of Mrs. Harriet Newell," and Hopkins's "Memoirs of Miss Susanna Anthony, who died at Newport, Rhode Island, in 1791," have manifestly been carefully read by Mrs. Stowe.

In conclusion, we may add, that amongst the pleasant peculiarities of the book are innumerable Americanisms, some of them intentionally and some unconsciously employed by the author. To educate young ladies is to "fetch them up," and a matron who superintends her domestic servants is said "to follow them round." Prominent, too, amongst its national characteristics, the reader will notice the author's passion for "talking philosophy," her familiar mention of Plato as "an old heathen," and her anxiety to display an intimate acquaintance with the Art galleries and cathedrals of Europe. The annoyance of our Transatlantic cousins at their own want of the memorials of ancient Art is one of their most patent foibles; and we are not aware that it was ever more humorously expressed than by the New York merchant who, on being reminded amidst the ruins of Pompeii that his country was entirely devoid of any such interesting relics, answered "Yes, stranger, that's an Almighty truth, we have got no remains like these here, but,—I guess, we precious soon shall have some."

*Hardwicke's Titles of Courtesy; containing an Alphabetical List of all those Members of Titled Families whose Names do not fall within the scope of the Peerage, Baronetage, and Knighthood. Together with the Birth, Marriage, Education, Preferment, &c., of each Individual, and his (or her) Address in Town and Country. Compiled by Edward Walford. (Hardwicke.)*

TITLES of courtesy are as tinsel to gold, looking like the thing, but not being the real thing. They are parts played in a wordly drama; but the actor's actual name is the more sterling fact. Thus, we have a number of Viscounts;

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but let a proclamation only be published, and that stern document will show little courtesy in exhibiting which is the solid and which is the sham; as, for instance, "Charles Stewart, Esq., commonly called Viscount Castlereagh." Of the titles belonging to a father, a subordinate one is sometimes assumed to distinguish or adorn the eldest son; but the latter only wears it by courtesy, and all his brothers who prefix "the honourable Mr.," &c., to their names, assume courtesy towards themselves, but are nothing more than *esquires* in the eyes of the law and Heralds' College.

We have also a roll of courtesies that cannot be enjoyed till they are conferred. In the cases already noticed, the parties do honour to themselves; but matter-of-fact etiquette gives the name of the player as well as of the part played. In other cases, the courtesy coming from the fountain-head of honour, the recipients of it become substantially what Royalty declares they shall henceforward be taken for. Thus, the married son of a Peer dies before his father, leaving children, another son succeeds to the title; but royal courtesy often permits those children in question to take such precedence and assume such titles as if their father had lived to move forward in the Peerage. Many titles are but courtesy titles framed in this fashion.

The desire to be something more than is warranted by actual position and truth has been strong in mortals of every grade. Our own kings called themselves Kings of France, till they dropped the title out of very shame. In another manner, the Kings of France called themselves the Kings of Navarre, but with little consistency; not dropping the title, however, till a phase in the Revolution, not yet terminated, changed the King of France into King of the French. Another European courtesy-title worn by courtesy, was "King of Jerusalem"; and the Dukes of Athol, till a very recent period, were often courteously spoken of as Kings of Man. At this very day Belfast is presided over by a "Sovereign"; and that courtesy-potentate has a far more agreeable life of it than half his regal brothers who have inherited or filched a crown, and are uneasy under that terrible and glittering burthen. The Sovereign of Belfast is the head of the municipality there; the Sovereigns, whose Irish titles have been more akin to courtesy-right, were such men as Martin, King of Connaught, and that tipsy and trustworthy King Corny, whose chronicles have been exquisitely written by the pen of Helen Maria Edgeworth.

Barbarian monarchs are rendered doubly splendid by real diamonds and sham titles. The courteous loyalty of the Chinese acknowledges in the Emperor of China a brother of the Sun and Moon. They are quite acute enough to know that the relationship will not bear examination at the hands of a genealogist; but, since the Emperor has thought fit, in his wisdom, to declare it, the courtesy and the piety of the Chinese accept it as a fact. They are a semi-barbarous people, it is true, but then they are likely the less to cavil, if they should ever read English history, at the stringent courtesy of Parliament, which compelled all Englishmen to say *Amen* to the assertion that, let our monarch be what he might, he was in church to be endowed with the courtesy-title of "most religious and gracious King."

The most melancholy scrap of courtesy in this way that now exists is perhaps illustrated in the individual who is styled Senator of Rome,—who is to the old Roman Senate what the last fly-blown is on the carcass of the dead lion. In contrast with this dreary official may be named the last American representative at

the Court of China. Shut up in a box, shaken till he was sore,—the whole Republic beaten into bruises in his person, and rattled along through crowds of grinning multitudes,—he must have felt, from his head to his feet, that it was only by courtesy that the Chinaman called him an ambassador, seeing that, in other respects, he was treated in so unseemly a fashion.

Besides courtesy-titles may be enumerated courtesy-characters, courtesy-productions, and courtesy-complexions. How numerous is the class the character of whose members are, through circumstances, accepted as tolerable, at least, when we know them to be much less than that. Courtesy-productions, pinchbeck for gold, glitter in the shop-windows of men who have seats at church, and are exemplary churchwardens. As for courtesy-complexions, they are taken as truths, and are never questioned, at all events to the owner of them. How one of these complexions was courteously censured, we have a pleasant example in the case of James the Second's Queen, who asked her confessor if she might not "paint."—"Certainly," said the good man, "but not to excess; only on one cheek!"

This brings us back to Court,—the grand stage on which all the grand personages in Mr. Walford's book figure, or are supposed, or have a right to figure. If in some respects they are like Peris, shut out from Paradise—excluded from being embraced within the scope, if that figure may be allowed, of Peersage, Baronetage, or Knightage—they have their consolation. A mere Knight's wife is recognizable at once; Lady Brown may be the consort of a City cheesemonger—knight and lady not the less worthy people—but Lady Letitia Brown may be the wife of a citizen too,—but you know, from the arrangement of title and name, that the lady may be the daughter of an Earl, Marquis, or even of a Duke.

Mr. Walford's book is useful, but it will bear revision. We open the volume at page 113, for instance, and we read of Lady Caroline "Fox-Lane." There are no Fox-Lanes now; they have long been converted or transposed into Lane-Foxes. The list of those, too, bearing courtesy-titles is incomplete. Mr. Walford himself remembers the fact, at page 165, but promises to supply what fails, in the Appendix. We apply to the reference indicated, and we find the oracle silent. It should have spoken on the precedence granted to the children of Sackville Lane Fox,—the mother of which children, long since deceased, was daughter of the late Duke of Leeds.

*Narrative of a Voyage to the West Indies and Mexico in the Years 1599—1602. With Maps and Illustrations. By Samuel Champlain. Translated from the Original and Unpublished Manuscript, with a Biographical Notice and Notes, by Alice Wilmere. Edited by Norton Shaw. (Printed for the Hakluyt Society.)*

An interesting narrative of the adventurer whose discoveries entitle him to be called the father of the colony of Quebec, and whose name survives in that of a great American lake, is for the first time made accessible to readers on both sides of the Atlantic. The manuscript had long formed one of the curiosities of the Public Library at Dieppe, where it was exhibited through the courtesy of the librarian, and allowed to be used by the lady, who, so far as we are able to judge, has faithfully translated it. M. Féret obtained the document from a resident in Dieppe, into whose possession it came when

the Great Revolution dispersed the literary property once held by the Convent of the Minimes. From the library of the Minimes we trace it up to M. de Chastes, governor of the town and castle of Dieppe, and a great benefactor of the convent. From M. de Chastes we instantly, and in the way of friendship, arrive at Samuel Champlain, of whose authorship, the style, language, and orthography of the manuscript bear every mark. It certainly does appear strange that the manuscript has hitherto never been published, and that while the voyager published the narrative of his "Voyages in New France," he should content himself with a brief allusion to his early adventure in the West Indies; yet, from the novelty and *naïveté* of its details, from its views of the early West India question, the state of Mexico, Spanish and French policy, and English warfare, the document will repay perusal. It is curious to find, 250 years ago, the project of a junction between the Atlantic and Pacific entertained. Considering the date of the voyage, and the official difficulty of arriving at the Spanish Main, we are enabled to understand the hue of romance which overspreads the work, and to do justice to the enterprising spirit of the voyager. Gage, who set sail twenty-five years later, was obliged to hide in an empty biscuit-cask to escape the scrutiny of the Spanish officials.

The "Brief Narrative of the most remarkable Things that Samuel Champlain of Brouage, observed in the West Indies, during the Voyage which he made in the years 1599 to 1602," begins with rehearsing how the author had been employed in King Henry the Fourth's army in Brittany until that province was reduced to obedience and the army dismissed. Thereupon, Champlain, finding himself without any charge or employment, resolved, like a good Frenchman, "in order not to remain idle, to find means of making a voyage to Spain, and, being there, to acquire and cultivate acquaintance," so as to be able to embark in one of the King of Spain's ships, and to be able on his return to make a true report, and to send drawings to the French king of a number of interesting "particularities." Accordingly, he takes ship to Callix, or Cadiz, thence to Seville, where he remains three months, and makes curious drawings; and, at last, in January, 1599, "the wind blowing always fresh," sets out, and in six days arrives at the Canary Islands. The Island of Porto-Rico he found "very desolate," for the Earl of Cumberland had been there, and "the English had left marks of their visit." This account is *naïve*. "The General inquired how the place had been taken in so short a time. One of them said, that neither the Governor of the Castle nor the oldest men of the country thought that within two leagues there was any place of landing, according to the report which had been made by the pilots of the place, who had assured them that, for more than six leagues from the said Castle, there was no spot where an enemy could make a descent, which was the cause that the Governor kept less on his guard, and in which he was much deceived," for the English landed "very conveniently," and "took their time so well, that they arrived at night in the roads without being perceived, no one apprehending such a thing." Among the curiosities of Porto-Rico are chameleons, "which, it is said, live on air:—this I cannot assure, although I have seen them many times." From Porto-Rico they coast round St. Domingo to the Port of Moquites, where "there are such quantities of small flies, like chesans, or gnats, which sting in so strange a fashion, that if a man were to go to sleep, and should be stung

in the face, puffy swellings of a red colour, enough to disfigure him, would rise from the sting." The Kingdom of New Spain, and Mexico, with "its fine forests," its rivers and fertile plains; its beautiful city, "with splendid temples, palaces, and fine houses; streets well laid out, where are seen the large and handsome shops of the merchants," are peculiar points of interest. There is, moreover, the lake which surrounds the city on all sides but one; there are the silver mines, and "cochineal, which grows in the fields as peas do elsewhere." In the vegetable world, we have another rarity:—

"There is another tree, which is called cacao, the fruit of which is very good and useful for many things, and even serves for money among the Indians, who give sixty for one real; each fruit is of the size of a pine-seed, and of the same shape; but the shell is not so hard; the older it is the better; and to buy provisions, such as bread, meat, fish, or herbs, this money may serve for five or six objects. Merchandise for provision can only be procured with it from the Indians, as it is not current among the Spaniards, nor to buy often other merchandise than fruits. When this fruit is desired to be made use of, it is reduced to powder, then a paste is made, which is steeped in hot water, in which honey, which comes from the same tree, is mixed, and a little spice; then the whole being boiled together, it is drunk in the morning, warm, as our sailors drink brandy, and they find themselves so well after having drunk of it, that they can pass a whole day without eating or having great appetite."

In the animal world, there are the dragons and the "bird of the heavens," "which name is given because it is continually in the air, without ever coming to the earth till it falls dead." "The female lays one egg only on the back of the male, by whose heat the said egg is hatched; and, when the bird has left the shell, it remains in the air, in which it lives like the rest of its kind."

A description of the natives follows, and a very curious method employed by the Spaniards of filling the village church:—

"There is also an Indian, who is as the fiscal of the village, and he has another and similar list; and on the Sunday, when the priest wishes to say mass, all the said Indians are obliged to present themselves to hear it; and before the priest begins the mass, he takes his list and calls them all by their names and surnames; and should any of them be absent, he is marked upon the list, and the mass being said, the priest charges the Indian who serves as fiscal, to inquire privately where the defaulters are, and to bring them to the church; in which, being brought before the priest, he asks them the reason why they did not come to the divine service, for which they allege some excuse, if they can find any; and if the excuses are not found to be true or reasonable, the said priest orders the fiscal to give the said defaulters thirty or forty blows with a stick, outside the church, and before all the people. This is the system which is maintained to keep them in religion, in which they remain, partly from fear of being beaten."

The author has forcibly "figured" the reluctant Indian, as he is being cudgelled at the church-door. At Panama, we have a shrewd and remarkable observation:—

"One may judge that, if the four leagues of land which there are from Panama to this river were cut through, one might pass from the south sea to the ocean on the other side, and thus shorten the route by more than fifteen hundred leagues; and from Panama to the Straits of Magellan, would be an island, and from Panama to the New-found-lands would be another island, so that the whole of America would be in two islands. If an enemy of the king of Spain should hold the said Porto-bello, he could prevent anything leaving Peru, except with great difficulty and risk and at more expense than profit. Drac [Drake] went to the said Porto-bello, in order to surprise it, but he failed in his enterprise, having been discovered; in consequence

of which, he died from disappointment, and ordered, in dying, that they should put him in a coffin of lead, and throw him into the sea, between an island and the said Porto-bello."

We have interesting notes at Havanna, "where neither corn nor wine grows," nor even tobacco,—at the Bermudas, where "it rains and thunders so often that it seems as if heaven and earth were about to come together. The sea is tempestuous around, and the waves high as mountains." At St. Domingo, there is "the queen's herb, which is dried and made into little cakes. Sailors—even the English—use it, and take the smoke of it";—and off Cape St. Vincent two English ships, armed for war, are captured.

#### OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

*Nuggets from the Oldest Diggings; or, Researches in the Mosaic Creation.* (Hamilton, Adams & Co.)—A fantastic title can be justified by nothing but success,—and the present instance does not strike us as successful. To make it so, a person must profess to bring gold from whence gold was never brought before, and must do it too. Now the author does not pretend to break ground, nor to open a new subject: "A Fresh Vein in an Old Mine" would have been much more to the purpose. Leaving the title, we can speak well of the work. There is nothing new; but old considerations are put together effectively, and with much more judgment than the title shows of taste. But we object entirely to such assertions as that those who inquire into the nebular hypothesis, for example, "strive by dint of firemists and nebulous rings to fill the eternity of the past with some other agency than God." There is no more sense in this than there was in the objection which Paddy made to the winnowing machine,—namely, that raising wind by human art was taking the matter out of the Divine hand. The author of this tract does not seem to know that those who think about firemists and nebulous rings are sharp enough to know that they can but ascend one step in a chain, and that the chain hangs upon the same hook whether its links be more or fewer. That is to say, without any reference to belief in or the rejection of a Creator, all who now inquire into causes are quite aware that this question of belief or rejection will be just what it is, let them make what ascent they may from particular to general. There was, indeed, a period, just following the diffusion and reception of Newton's great step, when a sanguine class of inquirers began to think that the first cause was almost within the grasp of physical discovery. But, even supposing that the satire of the Dunciad was true for its time, as no doubt it was for a class then not small nor obscure, there is no truth in it for our day. Those who use "some other agency than God," and those who dispute with them, fight their battle on grounds different from those which our author assigns.

*Diary of a Working Clergyman in Australia and Tasmania kept during the Years 1850-1853.* By the Rev. Edw. D. Mereweather, B.A. (Hatchard & Co.)—Mr. Mereweather relates the experiences of four years spent by him as a working clergyman in Van Diemen's Land or Tasmania, in the extensive region lying north of the Murray, New South Wales, and known as the Edward River District, and in the city of Sydney. Headings, moreover, sketch accounts of his visits to Java and Singapore, as well as of his ministrations on the Overland Route. The volume supplies some interesting facts as to the effect of the gold discoveries on the morals and manners of the Australian colonial population, together with information on the convict classes in Van Diemen's Land and New South Wales. It affects no importance as a contribution to statistics or geography. It eschews the subject of Church government; but Mr. Mereweather permits his intolerance to leak out now and then, which adds a certain sort of spice to the Diary.

*Frank Marland's Manuscripts; or, Memoirs of a Modern Templar.* By J. F. Brandt. (Hope.)—The earlier portions of this strange, eventful history are so disagreeable that readers will feel im-

pealed, by an irresistible incentive, to pursue it to a catastrophe. The author's apparent object is to prove that boys are flagellated at school; and, since he devotes several minute chapters to a commemoration of precocious suffering under cane and thong, it must be left for circulating-library readers to decide whether or not the mysteries of the Eton block and birch excite their prurience.

*Jans and Jessie.* By "Maggie." Illustrated by W. H. Webbe. (Simpkin & Marshall.)—We had hoped that the system of "pressing" was entirely abolished; but we find here several ill-looking words, which have been pressed into the service of Poetry. They have been set to form rhymes, but with little success, for they are so exceedingly mutinous, that their compulsory service produces a vast amount of discord.

A very strange performance is the "First Book" of a poem entitled *The Person of a Town*, by George Martin Braune (Masters), otherwise, "The Person of a Town," being an attempt to depict, in Spenserian metre, and in a modification of the Spenserian diction, the beauty of the Christian character as developed in the life of a perfect clergyman, after Chaucer's suggestion in his eulogy on the "Person of a Town." We have read so much as was possible, and it appears that many creditable intentions and industrious efforts have been unprofitably thrown away. How many additional "books" must we expect of this stagnant moral idealism, clothing a half-visible eidolon!—A more tangible dedication is set forth in *Hortatio ad Fratres: Elegiac Stanzas to the Memory of Burns*, by George Anson Byron Lee. (Hall & Co.)—It was with apprehension we examined a *Specimen of a New Translation of Homer*, exhibiting the *First Book of the Iliad*, rendered into English Hexameters by Charles Wilmore (Leighton-Buzzard, J. Wilmore), but the task was superfluous. Mr. Wilmore is self-satisfied enough to be his own critic. "I have called this a 'specimen translation' not as implying that I had any intention of completing the Iliad; I merely offer a specimen of what may be done,—done so easily, too, that any one with a schoolboy's knowledge of Greek might finish the translation better than I have begun it." There is not a taste of the genuine Homer in these hexameters.—Another experiment in classicism is Mr. J. S. Winslow's *Theseus and the Minotaur: a Metrical Legend*, (Saunders & Otley.) Mr. Winslow takes care to adopt the antique form of poetry, with all due invocation and pomp of narrative; but his Ariadne is a comfortable modern girl, who falls into evil hands and comes to grief. She is no antique; she belongs to no myth; a hundred Greek epithets would not touch her with a tint of Grecian beauty in the days of the demi-gods and nymphs.—*eros and psyche*, by Elias Athergon (Saunders & Otley), has been written by one who sympathizes more genuinely with ancient fable. He exaggerates the necessities of his drama; he is too profuse in material decoration; but he has imbibed something of classical appreciation, though it may be only from simple love of the story he has to tell, the story told by all poets, or dreamed of by them. The diction is luscious, too much so; but the rhythm is easy, and the fancy flows lightly along.—We now encounter in this land of legends Mr. William Cyples, a poetical prophet, who re-fashions the Apocalypse, and eclipses Milton. His work is *Satan Restored* (Saunders & Otley). The revolt and fall of Satan, he tells us, have already been sung,—

—But who shall sing  
Satan restored, and all his host's ascent  
By God's permission from the Gulf emerged  
Unto their ancient seats? This task be mine,  
Content to be the first of mortal men,  
To hail thee, Lucifer!

—Now, this Satan, having returned to Heaven, threatens earth with a visit; he is even now among us:—

—All hail!  
All hail! unto thee, Lucifer! All hail!

Seldom is a chant of more stentorian nonsense heard than the epic vagary of Mr. Cyples, from first to last.—After this the highly-spiced poetical story, *Ildegonda*, from the Italian of Grossi (Saunders & Otley), is a refreshment, especially as the incidents are vigorously and naturally related

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although in somewhat jingling verse.—*Irene* (Kent & Co.) is another Italian story, more pretentious, and in three cantos.

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## FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

Florence, Sept. 25.

AMONG the many uncanny forms of future disaster predicted for Tuscany by such as distrust the promised millennium which is to be brought about by Biarritz *flots* and Arenenberg conferences, is the possibility of the at present orderly and hopeful Duchy being deliberately starved into turbulence and wearied, like an expectant child, into a fit of fidgets and consequent naughtiness which may deserve its being summarily put in the corner (*of course* for its own good) under any sovereign sway which the triad of imperial eagles (England permitting) may see fit to set over it. This righteous diplomatic calculation, which the great majority yet hope may fall to pieces in the proving, or, as Schiller has it, turn out

—a cunning plan, fine-pointed; but, alas,  
So finely sharpened that the point breaks off!

—is yet not without its chance of turning up a prize in the lottery of possibilities. Trade is necessarily flagging throughout the Peninsula. Within two months, winter with its privations will begin to set in. Large bodies of young men without means of employment have in every State of Central Italy been thrown back upon society by the sudden conclusion of this disastrous peace. The faith of the people in their holy cause, though firm as yet, may be shaken by high taxes and dear bread. The *parti prêtre*, despite their loud protestations of national feeling, are everywhere indefatigable in throwing up their mole-works at the bidding of Rome. If, to use the hard cynical phrase of *blâse* politicians, Tuscany be allowed to simmer overlong "in her own broth," the time may come when it will be ill crying "Viva il nostro Re!" on an empty stomach, especially if the hero of the cry have been soundly lectured into disowning the compliment. The question whether unimperial Europe will sit by with folded hands, and impassively watch the culinary process to its unhallowed conclusion, is one which each political party decides according to its lights. But that starvation is a safe substitute for bayonets, and often produces the same results with less noise, is a fact only too well known to those who sit in judgment on the destinies of the Duchies.

But as the weeks go on, our Tuscan Government, though it have no acknowledged head, or perhaps, like the "good woman" of the tavern-sign, *because* it has no head to speak of, is doing its best to steer the country through this perilous shoal passage, and entering bravely upon such internal reforms as the state of the times allows. Among these I must mention a scheme for the entire remodelling of the Academy of the Fine Arts (*Accademia delle Belle Arti*). In common with most of the Fine Art Academies of Europe, this institution has deservedly incurred the stigma of being rather a drawback than a foster of genius. Nowhere has their shortcoming of Academic instruction been more felt than in England; and a glance at the several papers lately published from time to time in the *Athenæum* on the subject of the Royal Academy shows how great is our need of sweeping reforms in this respect. It may, therefore, be not uninteresting to English readers to see how the Florentines are going to set about the work of improvement, so as to place both masters and students on a higher and freer basis than formerly, and let in upon the tangle of old abuses that free air of liberty without which no healthy life can be for any form of social existence. The plan to be pursued is set forth at length in an able article published in the *Nazione* of the 5th of September, embodying the results of a meeting, at which most of the leading artists of Florence were present, and where the Venerable Marchese Gino Capponi occupied the chair. The great aim of the plan of reform to be undertaken under the new system, will be to counteract the mechanizing tendency which such Academies are apt to exercise over the artistic capacities of the pupils, and to combine the needful restraints of instruction with the greatest possible degree of liberty allowed to the spontaneity of each pupil's several talent. Far from the process of admission to the Academy here being lengthy and needlessly laborious as in England, the qualifications for

admittance are in Florence only too low and easy of attainment. It is intended to place the standard of such qualifications considerably higher than it now is, to prevent the influx of boys with little or no artistic capacity, who are yearly placed at the Academy, by poor parents, who thus hope, at no cost, to provide for them a decent means of subsistence. Under the present circumstances, Florence necessarily becomes a hot-bed of twentieth-rate daubers, just capable of overstocking Europe with those bad copies from the *chefs-d'œuvre* of the galleries, upon whose sale they barely live.

The aim of the Commission which is to be appointed by the Government to carry out the projected reforms, will be, to attach the leading artists of Florence, both sculptors and painters, to the Academy, in the quality of unpaid or free masters (*mæstri liberi*). Their studios are to become, as it were, so many schools of "high instruction" (*alto insegnamento*); and they are to take the pupils in hand at the close of their preliminary studies only. There is to be no restriction whatever as to the number of these *mæstri liberi*, and such a continual infusion of new blood will be insured to the Academic body; for any artist in repute will be able to be at once admitted to the number of *free masters*, without that weary "waiting for dead men's shoes" which has wrought so much ill under the late system, regulated as it of course was on thoroughly Austrian principles. It is moreover understood that the pupils are to select of their own free-will the master under whose guidance they most incline to study. The means of remunerating these masters for their instruction, are to be threefold:—First, an excellent studio, provided gratis; secondly, a certain number of commissions for pictures or statues to be given yearly by the Government out of funds now lavished on useless branches of Art; and, lastly, a pension to be granted to each master in advanced life.

Another important improvement in the Academy will be the establishment of a Professorship of *Æsthetics*, for the oral instruction of the pupils in the History and Principles of Art from the earliest times. Parini, the far-famed satirist and polished man of letters, held such a chair at Milan towards the end of the last century, and his Lectures are said to have been models of lucid and eloquent instruction. I have heard Signor Giudici, the well-known author of *'Le belle Lettre d'Italia'*, mentioned as likely to become Professor of *Æsthetics* here under the new régime. For such a place he is eminently qualified by his extensive historical and artistic knowledge, and will doubtless do much towards the establishment of a more flourishing phase of artistic matters in Florence. That Tuscany, of her present poverty, is really going to set about these needful reforms with hearty good-will, is very honourable to her; but the entire recasting of such an institution is no easy matter, nor one to be thrown off at a heat. The Florentine *Accademici* are perniciously inefficient. They are inclined to look down on the important office they hold as burdensome, frivolous, and beneath their dignity! It is therefore intended to limit unalterably the number of these dead-weights on the Academy, and to assign to them a share of real employment, in the erection of new buildings, and the restoration of those noble old edifices with which the city abounds. At Milan the Academy is about to be similarly new modelled. The Minister of Public Instruction has just appointed a Commission for the purpose, among whom are Cav. Massimo d'Azeglio and Marchese Roberto d'Azeglio; and the statutes are to be drawn up on the exact pattern of those liberal ones established in 1803, which were abolished at the outset of Austrian rule in Lombardy. A few days ago I paid a visit to the Bargello, to see how the work of demolition goes on there, which is to restore that grand old pile to the pristine likeness which it bore when built by Arnolfo di Lapo to be the Palazzo del Podesta. Every visitor to Florence knows the Bargello, majestic and picturesque even in its late wretched disfigurement and degradation to the office of the common jail of Florence which it has held for several centuries. Painters of every shade, photographers of every calibre, (heaven

[ADVERTISEMENT.]  
To the Editor of the *Athenæum*.  
10, Stationers' Hall Court, London,  
October 5, 1859.  
Sir,—In the last number of the *Athenæum* appears a letter from a Mr. Maxwell, relative to an "inadverntence" in an extensively circulated advertisement of a book entitled "The Family Doctor," published by Houlston & Wright. As this inadverntence "chiefly concerns ourselves, we think it right to explain more clearly than Mr. Maxwell has thought proper to do where the "inadverntence" consists. Some two years ago we became the proprietors of Dr. Spencer Thomson's *Medical Dictionary*—a work which was well received by the reviewers and the public, and has had a very extensive sale. As might have been expected, several imitations of this work have appeared, among others, "The Family Doctor," by a Dispensary Surgeon, bearing the imprint of "Houlston & Wright," and in order that this imitation should sell, the expedient was hit upon of appropriating reviews which belong to Dr. Spencer Thomson's work, and advertising them throughout the country. We apply to Houlston & Wright, but they deny all responsibility or knowledge of the advertisement, and refer us to Mr. Maxwell, at the same time refusing to give us such a letter ignoring their connexion with the advertisement as would set us right with the public. In the name of all honourable trading, we beg to protest against such a disgraceful proceeding. Any individuals to reap the gains arising from an act of this kind, and yet come under no responsibility to the injured party!—According to law and equity—no. We are, Sir, yours respectfully, RICHARD GRIFFIN & CO.

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knows their name is Legion!) have done their best to perpetuate the wonderful play of light and shade in that gloomy courtyard which was the framework to so many a tragic picture in the days of the evil Medicean rule. Who can stand on its threshold without remembering the scene so simply recorded by Varchi as having taken place on those broad flag-stones just after the election of Clement the Seventh to the Papacy, when a most worthy citizen (*un ottimo cittadino*), who had been arrested "about 18 of the clock," (that is, probably between three and four in the afternoon,) for having remarked that His Holiness was not canonically elected, owing to the illegitimacy of his birth, was summarily beheaded at the 22nd hour (about six, that is), after undergoing *one turn* on the *rack*? The courtyard now once more displays the beautiful symmetry of its columned arches, forming a sort of open corridor on three sides of the ground-floor, the barbarous whitewashed brickwork which walled up the arches for so long being now levelled with the ground. A heavy wooden roof no longer deforms the picturesque exterior staircase, with its marble bas-reliefs and Rembrandt depth of shadow, down which so many a prisoner passed bare-headed, and, mechanically counting the smooth steps as he came, to that centre stone of the court where headsmen and Capuchin stood waiting for him by the block. At the top of the staircase a beautiful vestibule, with groined roof, and remains of ancient frescoes on the walls, has also been freed from its brick and mortar fetters, and leads directly into a mighty hall, where the Podesta, or chief criminal judge of Florence, held his solemn sittings, and gave judgment in the cases which came within his jurisdiction. A wonderful relic of the stalwart days of the old Republic is this vast, simple Gothic chamber, which only a few months ago was not, inasmuch as four floors of squalid prison cells, entirely filled up its immense height, which now stretches up as of old, sheer from the first floor of the palace to the battlemented roof. The hall thus resuscitated, with its immense proportions and majestic architecture, is far nobler even than the fine *Sala dei Cinque Cento* in the Palazzo Vecchio, decked out by Duke Cosimo in all the glories of painting and gorgeous adornment. I fully entered into the almost childish pride and admiration of the burly frank-faced *capo maestro muratore* (master mason) who stood beside us, all over smiles at the enthusiastic praise we bestowed on this splendid result of long months of weary labour. "Ah," said he, in his clear, hearty voice, gazing up lovingly at the huge massive iron rings high above our heads in the keystones of the vaulted stone ceiling; "Ah! lor Signori are mistaken if they think this is all. In a few more months we shall have cleared away all yonder *robaccia*" (rubbish), pointing to a knot of modern passages seen through a distant doorway, "and then the gallery will be open all the way to Giotto's Chapel. *Allora si, che sarà una magnificenza!*" (that will be a glorious sight). On the ground-floor is another great hall, of the same dimensions as that above, supported by four massive columns. But it wants the stately height of the upper chamber to carry off its severity of aspect. The *capo maestro* bade us observe how strongly the massive walls had had to be propped and buttressed up during the tremendous series of hard knocks which they have had to endure in the process of the demolition of their ignoble accessories. The whole body of the building was literally crammed with cells and small dark staircases, and any masonry less sturdy than that of Arnolfo would assuredly have come toppling down in the course of restoration. It is said that this stately old building, when thoroughly swept and garnished, will be made a grand national museum of the relics of the Old Republic. There has been some talk, too, of placing on the ground-floor the contents of the sculpture galleries of the Uffizi, where their enormous weight on the first floor imperils the safety of the whole edifice, and every year necessitates a large outlay for repairs. But the restoration of the Bargello will take at least two years more to complete, and before then, the Codini affirm that the *Venus dei Medici* will probably be figuring at Vienna, if we go on provoking his Kaisership beyond bearing, by the unpardonable presumption of thinking we can

choose a prince for ourselves better than he can choose for us.

By the way, an amusing *canard*, or, as they call such things here, a "*papera*," or green goose, has been going the round of Florence these few days. It affirms that the Duke of Modena has just abdicated in favour of Ferdinand the Fourth of Tuscany, and that His Holiness, not to be outdone in liberality to a faithful son of the Church, has also made over to the Tuscan Pretender the fee simple of his rebellious Romagne. These donations a witty Italian friend aptly compares to the generosity of a pair of sharpers, who palm off their protested bills with friendly eagerness on a less wide-awake member of the same worshipful fraternity. The unliberated portion of the Roman States continues seething and struggling towards a day of reckoning with its rulers. Private letters tell us that the luckless Marchesi are daily undergoing every species of insult and oppression. Tuscan and Piedmontese journals are prohibited at Rome, and the Marchese Bargagli, the ex-Grand-Duke's accredited Minister to the Pope, persists, after due warnings from the Tuscan Government, in occupying the Palazzo di Firenze at Rome, which Palazzo is national property, and is always appropriated to the use of the Tuscan Ambassador in that city. The Tuscan Government has long since formally intimated to the Marchese that he is to desist from any act that belongs to their diplomatic representative, and that in case of refusal, they will proceed against him according to the letter of the law. The Marchese declares that he shall pay no heed to any such intimation; and the Government, being unable by fair means to eject the Marchese, says that it will "take measures accordingly"; which bodes no good to the Marchese's Tuscan property. Meanwhile, Venice, scourged, mangled, and bleeding from every vein, resolutely refuses to listen to the voice of the *Moniteur*, charm he never so blandly. In a noble letter addressed to the *Crepuscolo*, the well-known leading Milanese periodical, the Venetians, in words which bring hot tears to any but the gold-spectacled eyes of a diplomat, cry out with one voice, not from the cities only, but from every inhabited corner of the suffering province, beseeching their brethren of Central Italy not to swerve from their plan of coalition one inch, though they be reproached as the authors of the misfortunes of Venice present and to come. A passage of this long and eloquent letter, which, translated, ought to have a place in all the principal journals of Europe, so far from expatiating on the wounds inflicted by Austrian oppression, proclaims that it is good for the Venetians to endure their ancient yoke, and writhe under stripes yet fiercer than those of old, so that the Central States may be free to unite in one powerful league, and some day, it matters not when, to lead them to a helping hand. "Tell them," they say, "you who have a free press and free utterance, that far from lamenting their noble resistance, we exult and glory in it, and that our present sufferings and those still greater which are yet to come, shall never wring from us a word of complaint." The young Venetians, despite every shape of danger which hedges them round, are emigrating, to the number of above a hundred a day, and taking service in the troops of the league. Those who best know the Venetian character will be able to judge of the significance of the following demonstration. The beautiful *Fenice* theatre is by general request to remain closed during the whole season: this being, they say, no time for music and carnival fooling. And yet the commerce of the Ocean City is all but *beggared*; and a large number of its respectable shopkeepers reduced by the enormous imposts to actual want. The Austrian authorities have done "the impossible" to prevent the resolution of closing the theatre from being carried; but without success. They cannot force their victims to take down their harps in the day of captivity; and the once light-hearted Venetians indignantly reply to the assertion of certain journals, that the foreign yoke is after all not so hateful to the population; "Let who will come among us, and say if ever in a city of the living he beheld such a spectacle of death and desolation!" So preaches Venice; and Tuscany *does* and

*will* hold out, please God, despite empty pockets and insidious foes, till better times reward her. My letter has run to an inconceivable length; but I cannot close it without mentioning the five new decrees which, as I have just heard from excellent authority, the Government will issue to-morrow. They include, first, the new coinage, bearing the head of Victor Emmanuel, with the words *Rè electo* —(king by election). Secondly, the placing of the arms of Piedmont on all the public buildings. Thirdly, the entire removal of custom-house barriers and passport delays on the frontier which divides Tuscany from the other States of the league and Piedmont. Fourthly, a levy of 4,000 more men for our contingent to the army of the league; and, fifthly, the recall of all those of suitable age who have quitted the service, with a considerable gratuity on their return. The Tuscan army already, it is remembered, amounts to more than 22,000 men.

If this be not preparing a *fait accompli* for the consideration of the much-talked-of Congress, I do not know what is. My friend, the political carpenter, taking a prospective view of the coming winter, with one eye screwed up shrewdly, and his *Guardia Civica* cap knowingly cocked astern, pithily remarks, "*Perdici Bacco!* (by the God Bacchus), if their excellencies of Zurich bring us to short commons, there's always the property of the friars to fall back upon; let 'em look to it!"

TH. T.

#### OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

THE inaugral addresses on the re-opening of the Medical Schools in London have excited more than ordinary attention this year. Students have not only thronged to listen, but the general public, when opportunity was afforded them, joined the more professional audiences to hear the instruction addressed to the *alumni*. The speakers, as we are glad to notice, seem now as anxious about the personal conduct as they are touching the knowledge of the pupils. This is a wise anxiety that will bear abundant fruits; and it was especially observable in the eloquent address delivered, on Monday, at St. Bartholomew's, by Mr. Luther Holden, amidst something very like an ovation.

The Pleasure-grounds at Kew will remain open during the month of October. The Botanic Garden is open to the public all the year round, and *every day*, except Good Friday. In connexion with popular Exhibitions, we may notice that on Monday, the 24th inst., the new picture-galleries at Kensington will be opened; all the works of English artists having been removed thither from Marlborough House.

Mr. Bucknill corrects an error by stating that the title of his work on Shakespeare is not the *Physiology*, but the *Psychology of Shakespeare*. We are glad to hear that the author of the above volume is engaged on a small work on Shakespeare's medical knowledge, not (as we understand) with a view of showing that he was a doctor's apprentice, but to indicate that he knew perhaps as much of medicine as of law; and thus, by adding one more proof of his special knowledge, to argue the universality of his mind.

The National Association for the Promotion of Social Science will commence its Third Annual Meeting, at Bradford, on Monday next, closing the same on the following Saturday. The Order of Proceedings records, for Monday, special service in the Parish Church, and a Sermon to be preached by the Bishop of Ripon,—a meeting of Council,—and, at half-past seven, a general meeting in St. George's Hall, when the Opening Address will be delivered by the President of the Association, the Earl of Shaftesbury. Lord Brougham and others will take part in the proceedings. On Tuesday, the President of the Council, Lord Brougham, will deliver his Annual Address, and Vice Chancellor Sir W. P. Wood will deliver an Address on Jurisprudence. The departments will then meet on this and each succeeding day in their rooms for papers and discussions. In the evening there will be a *Soirée* for Members and Associates at St. George's Hall. Rooms will be appropriated for conversational meetings on special subjects. On Wednesday, the Right Hon. C. B. Adderley, M.P., will deliver an Address on Education, and in the evening Lord

Brougham will preside at a meeting of the Bradford Mechanics' Institute. On Thursday, R. Monckton Milnes, Esq., M.P., will deliver his Address on the Punishment and Prevention of Crime, and the Reformation of Criminals; and at an evening meeting of the working classes in St. George's Hall, the Mayor of Bradford will preside. On Friday, the Right Hon. W. Cowper, M.P., will deliver his Address on Public Health. The Social Economy Department will receive a Report from the Trades' Societies Committee, and papers will be taken and a discussion held on this subject. The day will conclude with a *Soirée* for Members and Associates in St. George's Hall; and on Saturday, Sir J. Kay Shuttleworth, Bart., will deliver his Address on Social Economy,—to be followed by a concluding meeting of Members and Associates in the Hall. Excursions have been arranged for, to the Low Moor Iron Works, and to Saltaire; other manufacturing and mercantile establishments will also be open to Members and Associates during their stay.

The rifle movement is progressing. Permission having been recently given to add a Rifle Company of Artists to the Marylebone Corps, the Committee will endeavour, we are told, to render membership as inexpensive as possible, under the conviction that Volunteer Corps should be permanent institutions, not only for national defence in case of need, but as tending to promote the physical well-being of those who join them.

A Correspondent writes:—

"8, Spencer Place, September.

"Will you allow me to supplement the article on 'Advertising Literature' by pointing out another class of commercial publications which is coming into vogue, and which have a fabulously large circulation. The work which is now frequently 'entered at Stationers' Hall' is a label, wrapper, or window-card; and it is common to see such copy-right works ornamenting a cup, enveloping half-ounces of tobacco, or staring at you in an advertising omnibus. Take as instances 'The Bitter Cup,' 'Roberts & Co.'s Virginia Shag' and 'Bass's Pale Ale.' I am not aware what are the provisions of the act nor what value may be allowed to attach to such copyright as this in point of law; but I remember not long ago seeing an advertisement threatening an action for the use of a 'name' which had been thus entered. The practice seems to indicate the need of a cheaper system of protection for useful but trifling designs, and the adoption of some properly organized plan for regulating and securing trade-marks. Have they not some such system of registration in France?—Yours, &c.

"WILLIAM S. CHAMPNESS."

The far-famed geographer Dr. Karl Ritter, died at Berlin, on the 28th of last month. Karl Ritter was born at Quedlinburg, in 1779; he taught, when a young man, at Schneppenthal, then, later, at Frankfurt-on-the-Main, and belonged since 1820 to the University of Berlin. His great work, which he continued for more than forty years, is, of course left incomplete. Too grand in its conception for one man's life to finish, it will be the task of generations. His death came not unexpected, for he had been ailing for a long time; yet his loss will be deeply felt by all those who had the advantage of enjoying a more intimate intercourse with the great scholar, whose kind and amiable manner, noble and humane thinking, and unpedantic teaching, attracted towards him irresistibly pupils and friends.

M. Gachard, Keeper of the Records in Belgium, has published, under the title of 'Correspondence of Charles V. and of Adrian VI.' a collection of State papers. While in Spain M. Gachard collected the letters of Philip the Second; and we are indebted to his labours for a most curious relation of the troubles in Ghent, during the year 1539. His present work enables us to appreciate, documents in hand, the relations existing between the powerful rival of Francis the First and the Bishop of Tortosa, afterwards Pope Adrian. The author presents a picture of the intrigues that disturbed the Pontifical Court at the death of Leo the Tenth. We see Cardinal Wolsey promising the good-will of his master to the sovereign that shall help him to reach the Vatican. We have before us

many letters, hitherto unpublished, of the Emperor to Henry the Eighth and his minister.

The Society of Arts and Sciences, established at Utrecht, feeling that a study of the Homeric Hymn in *Cererem* will contribute to extend our knowledge of the Eleusinian mysteries, requires a review of the opinions of the learned as to the tendency of that Hymn, and a critical dissertation on its true character, subject and form. The Society further asks for papers of inquiries into the development of one or more species of the Mollusca, Annelides, or Crustacea, an account of which has not yet been written, with figures illustrative of the text, and, finally, a series of researches into the warmth generated by plants. A gold medal of the value of 30 ducats, 13*l.*, or an equivalent in money, will be accorded to each successful competitor. The papers must be sent in, post free, previous to the 30th of November, 1860;—but the paper on heat generated by plants is not required till the 30th of November, 1861, addressed to Dr. J. W. Gunning, the Secretary of the Society at Utrecht. The author is at liberty to avail himself either of the Dutch, German (in Italic characters), English, French or Latin language, but the answers must not be in his own handwriting. They are to be accompanied by a sealed envelope, inclosing his name, and, if a member of the Society, having the letter "L" on the address. The successful answers will be published in the Society's works.

Prof. Kiss, from Berlin, has shown his gratitude to the mineral sources of Karlsbad by presenting the town with a magnificent colossal tiger's head in bronze, killing a serpent, which has been erected on the road to Marienbad, near the promenade, in such a way that the tiger's head emerges from a cavern, and creates in every spectator the illusion as if the rest of the body was in the cavern. On a slab under this fine piece of art are the words, "In grateful remembrance, by Kiss in Berlin, 1859."

Shortly will appear at St. Petersburg the sixth volume of *Australay's* 'History of Peter the Great.' It is said to throw new light on that dark point in history, the condemnation of the Cesarewitch Alexis. All the papers relative to this event, and all the secret records, have been put at the disposal of the author by the Russian Government.

Various additions and improvements have recently been made in the British Museum. Amongst others, that which strikes the visitor most immediately upon entrance, is the erection of two drinking fountains,—one on either side of the grand entrance under the portico. Upon passing into the Hall we notice two busts, newly erected upon brackets, also of white marble. In the one we recognize the intellectual and benevolent features of Mr. Townley. The other is the *vera effigie* of Mr. Payne Knight, a benefactor to the nation, and a contributor to its great collection. Passing on to the left, through that neat little gallery adorned with a small number of very interesting busts of the later Roman period, we find our old friends the Discobolus and his *vis-à-vis*, that beautiful semi-draped Venus, in quarters greatly altered for the better. But the most satisfactory improvement is in the completion of the new "Assyrian Basement Room," containing the most recently arrived slabs, arranged in admirable order, and with the best light possible reflected upon them from above by means of a skylight roof. These slabs have at length emerged from the dismal vaults in which they have so long lain. They are of a somewhat different character from those already encrusted into the walls of the gallery upstairs. The sculptures, generally speaking, are on a much smaller scale than their predecessors, which, at first, delighted and astonished the good people of England. The delineations, however, of the various scenes thereupon sculptured are, if anything, more beautiful. The various *bas-reliefs* are arranged, we presume, in the original position in which they were found. The room is an oblong quadrangle, with two entrances both at the same end. The centre is occupied with a smaller inclosure, of the same shape as the room itself; with an entrance close to the left-hand principal door above mentioned. The sculptures comprise a number of highly-interesting battle and hunting scenes, the latter vividly recalling the descriptions given by Xenophon of the

early days of Cyrus. Not a little curious are the baitings of lions, which animals are depicted as being turned out of cages for the purpose. The dogs are represented as being held by attendants, who are prepared to let them slip on a given signal from the Royal Master of the Hunt. Of these singular performances we cannot forbear, however, noticing two pieces, the one containing a number of antelopes of the most delicate proportions; the other the chase and capture of a number of quaggas or wild asses. The animation thrown into every separate figure is beyond praise, and manifests a very keen appreciation of nature on the part of the sculptor. The Carthaginian curiosities, sent to this country by Mr. N. Davis, comprise a number of beautiful mosaics of the Roman period, which must have been very handsome indeed, in their day, and yet retain abundant traces of former loveliness. Perhaps, more valuable to the philologist than these, are a quantity of rude fragments of much earlier date, many of them bearing Phoenician inscriptions in a very excellent state of preservation. These treasures occupy the gloomy crypts that were once tenanted by the Assyrian antiquities.

ROYAL COLOSSEUM.—OPEN DAILY.—Eight First-Class Exhibitions. Entertainments. Open, Morning, Twelve till Five; Evening, Seven till half-past Ten.—Admission, 1*l.*; Children under Ten and Schools, 6*d.* Sole Lessee and Manager, Dr. BACHHOFFNER, F.C.S.

## SCIENCE

### BRITISH ASSOCIATION.

#### SECTION A.—MATHEMATICAL AND PHYSICAL SCIENCE.

MONDAY.

'Report on the Theory of Numbers,' by Mr. H. A. S. SMITH.

'Report on Thunderstorms,' by Mr. G. J. SYMONS.

'On the Establishment of Thermometric Stations on Mont Blanc,' by Prof. TYNDALL.—I proposed to the Royal Society some months ago to establish a series of stations between the top and the bottom of Mont Blanc, and to place suitable thermometers at each of them. The Council of the Society thought it right to place a sum of money at my disposal for the purchase of instruments and the payment of guides; while I agreed to devote a portion of my vacation to the execution of the project. At Chamouni I had a number of wooden piles prepared, each of them shod with iron, to facilitate the driving of it into the snow. The one intended for the summit was 12 feet long and 3 inches square; the others, each 10 feet long, were intended for five stations between the top of the mountain and the bottom of the Glacier de Bossons. Each post was furnished with a small cross-piece, to which a horizontal minimum thermometer might be attached. Six-and-twenty porters were found necessary to carry all our apparatus to the Grands Mulets, whence fourteen of them were immediately sent back. The other twelve, with one exception, reached the summit, whence six of them were sent back. Six therefore remained. In addition to these we had three guides, Auguste Balmat being the principal one; these, with my friend Dr. Frankland and myself, made up eleven persons in all. Though the main object of the Expedition was to plant the posts and fix the thermometers, I was very anxious to make some observations on the diathermancy of the lower strata of the atmosphere. I therefore arranged a series of observations with the Abbé Veullet, of Chamouni; he was to operate at Chamouni, while I observed at the summit. Our instruments were of the same kind; and in this way we hoped to determine the influence of the stratum of air interposed between the top and bottom of the mountain upon the solar radiation. Wishing to commence the observations at an early hour in the morning, I had a tent carried to the summit. It was 10 feet in diameter, and into it the whole eleven of us were packed. The north wind blew rather fiercely over the summit; but we dropped down a few yards to leeward, and thus found shelter. Throughout the night we did not suffer at all from cold, though the adjacent snow was 15° Centigrade, or 27° Fahr. below the freezing point of water. We were all, however, indisposed. I was, indeed, unwell when

I quitted Chamouni; but I fully expected to be able to cast this off during the ascent. In this, however, I was unsuccessful; my indisposition augmented during the entire period of the ascent. The wind increased in force towards morning; and as the fine snow was perfectly dry, it was driven upon us in clouds. Had no other obstacle existed this alone would have been sufficient to render the observations on solar radiation impossible. We were therefore obliged to limit ourselves to the principal object of the expedition: the erection of the post for the thermometers. It was sunk six feet in the snow, while the remaining six feet were exposed to the air. A minimum thermometer was screwed firmly on to the cross-piece of the pile; a maximum thermometer was screwed on beneath this, and under this again a wet and dry bulb thermometer. Two minimum thermometers were also placed in the snow: one at a depth of six, and the other at a depth of four feet below the surface; these being intended to give us some information as to the depth to which the winter cold penetrates. At each of the other stations we placed a minimum thermometer in the ice or snow, and a maximum and a minimum in the air. The stations were as follows:—The summit, the Corridor, the Grand Plateau, the glacier near the Grands Mulets, and two additional ones between the Grands Mulets and the end of the Glacier de Bossons. We took up some rockets, to see whether the ascensional power or the combustion was affected by the rarity of the air. During the night, however, we were enveloped in a dense mist, which defeated our purpose. One rocket, however, was sent up, which appeared to penetrate the mist, and rising probably above it its sparks were seen at Chamouni. Dr. Frankland was also kind enough to undertake some experiments on combustion: six candles were chosen at Chamouni, and carefully weighed. All of them were permitted to burn for one hour at the top; and were again weighed when we returned to Chamouni. They were afterwards permitted to burn an hour below. Rejecting one candle, which gave a somewhat anomalous result, we found, to our surprise, that the quantity consumed at the top was, within the limits of error, the same as that consumed at the bottom. This result surprised us all the more, inasmuch as the *light* of the candles appeared to be much feebler at the top than at the bottom of the mountain. The explosion of a pistol was sensibly weaker at the top than at a low level. The *shortness* of the sound was remarkable; but it bore no resemblance to the sound of a cracker, to which, in acoustic treatises, it is usually compared. It resembled more the sound produced by the explosion of a cork from a champagne-bottle, but it was much louder. The sunrise from the summit exceeded in magnificence anything that I had previously seen. The snows on one side of the mountain were of a pure light blue, being illuminated by the *reflected* light of the sky; the summit and the sunward face of the mountain, on the contrary, were red from the *transmitted* light, and the contrast of both was finer than I can describe. I may add, in conclusion, that the lowest temperature at the summit of the Jardin during last winter was 21° Cent. below zero. We vainly endeavoured to find a thermometer which had been placed upon the summit of Mont Blanc last year.

‘On the Connexion between the Solar Spots and Magnetic Disturbance,’ communicated by Sir D. BREWSTER.

‘On the Calculus of Variations,’ by Prof. LINDELÖF.—‘This was a purely mathematical communication, which would be wholly uninteresting to the general reader.

‘On Celestial Photography,’ by Mr. W. DE LA RUE.

‘On the Submergence of Telegraph Cables,’ by Mr. H. COX.

‘On Electrical “Frequency,”’ by Prof. W. THOMSON.—Beccaria found that a conductor insulated in the open air becomes charged sometimes with greater and sometimes with less rapidity, and he gave the name of “frequency” to express the atmospheric quality on which the rapidity of charging depends. It might seem natural to attribute this quality to electrification of the air itself

round the conductor or to electrified particles in the air impinging upon it; but the author gave reasons for believing that the observed effects are entirely due to particles flying away from the surface of the conductor, in consequence of the impact of *non-electrified* particles against it. He had shown in a previous communication (Section A, Thursday, Sept. 15), that when no electricity of separation (or, as it is more generally called, “frictional electricity,” or “contact electricity”) is called into play, the tendency of particles continually flying off from a conductor is to destroy all electrification at the part of its surface from which they break away. Hence a conductor insulated in the open air, and exposed to mist or rain, with wind, will tend rapidly to the same electric potential as that of the air, beside that part of its surface from which there is the most frequent dropping, or flying away, of aqueous particles. The *rapid charging*, indicated by the electrometer under cover, after putting it for an instant in connexion with the earth, is therefore, in reality, due to a *rapid discharging* of the exposed parts of the conductor. The author had been led to these views by remarking the extreme rapidity with which an electrometer, connected by a fine wire with a conductor insulated above the roof of his temporary electric observatory in the island of Arran became charged, reaching its full indication in a few seconds, and sometimes in a fraction of a second, after being touched by the hand, during a gale of wind and rain. The conductor, a vertical cylinder about 10 inches long and 4 inches diameter, with its upper end flat and corner slightly rounded off, stood only 8 feet above the roof, or, in all, 20 feet above the ground, and was nearly surrounded by buildings rising to a higher level. Even with so moderate an exposure as this, sparks were frequently produced between an insulated and an uninsulated piece of metal, which may have been about  $\frac{1}{10}$ th of an inch apart, within the electrometer, and more than once a continuous line of fire was observed in the instrument during nearly a minute at a time, while rain was falling in torrents outside.

‘On Gutta Percha as an Insulator at various Temperatures,’ by Mr. F. JENKIN.

‘On Sir Christopher Wren’s Cipher, containing Three Methods of finding the Longitude,’ by Sir D. BREWSTER.—Sir David said that at page 263 of his ‘Life of Sir Isaac Newton’ the following paragraphs would be found:—“The bill which had been enacted for rewarding the discovery of the longitude seems to have stimulated the inventive powers of Sir Christopher Wren, then in his eighty-third year. He communicated the results of his study to the Royal Society, as indicated by the following curious document which I found among the manuscripts of Newton: ‘Sir Christopher Wren’s cipher, describing three instruments proper for discovering the longitude at sea delivered to the Society November 30, 1714, by Mr. Wren:—

OZVCVAYINIXDNCVOCWEDCNMALNA  
BECIRTEWNGRAMHHCCAW.

ZEIYEINOLEBIVTXESCIOPSDEDDMNA  
NHSEFPRPIWHDRAEHHXCIF.

EZKAVEBIMOXRFLCSLCEEDHWMGNN  
IVEOMREWWRCCSHEPCIP.

‘Vera copia. EDM. HALLEY.’

We presume that each of these paragraphs of letters is the description of a separate instrument. If it be true that every cipher can be deciphered, these mysterious paragraphs, which their author did not live to expound, may disclose something interesting to science.” Sir David Brewster went on to say that soon after the publication of ‘The Life of Sir Isaac Newton,’ he had received a letter from Mr. Francis Williams, of Grange Court, Chigwell, suggesting very modestly that an deciphering of the cipher, as published, was so simple, he supposed many persons had already done so; but if not, he begged to say that the mystery could be solved by reading the letters backwards in each of the three paragraphs, omitting every third letter. He had, on the approach of the Meeting of the British Association, received permission from Mr. Williams to give an account to this Section of Mr. Williams’s method of solving

the enigma. In his letter conveying the permission, which Sir David read, he suggests that “Sir Christopher Wren’s object was to make it too mysterious to be of use to any one else. It is possible he may have wished to delay for a time the publication of his inventions, perhaps till he had improved his instruments, but was afraid that in the interval another would hit upon and publish the same discovery. He would send this cipher, then, to the Royal Society as a proof to be used at any future time.” Sir David had the following explanation then, in accordance with Mr. Williams’s suggestion, written upon the black boards, the letters to be omitted being written in small characters to distinguish them, and backwards:—

WAcChhMaGNwETRICEBaNLAmNCdEW  
cOUcNDxINIvAvCuZo.—Wach magnetic balance wound in vacuo (one letter a misprint). The omitted letters similarly read are—Chr. Wren, mdccxv.

FcCXHhEArdHwIPrPEeS HnANmDedSp  
OICeSExTuIBeONiEYiEZ.—Fix head hippe  
handes poise tube on eye (one letter a misprint). Omitted letters make—Chr. Wren, mdccxiii.

PiCPEhScRERwWErMoEVInGmWhdEE  
LScFrXrOMiBEvA KZ.—Pipe screws moving  
wheels from beake. Omitted letters make—Chr. Wren, mdccxv.

The three last omitted z’s occurring in the first part of each cipher to show that that part must be taken last.

‘On Methods of finding the Position of a Fault in a Submerged Cable,’ by Mr. C. F. VARLEY.

‘On Lunar Influence on Temperature,’ by Mr. J. PARK HARRISON.—Mr. Harrison showed curves and diagrams which confirmed his former deductions, and gave the results of averages taken for many years.

‘On the Transparency of the Atmosphere,’ by Mr. A. CRUICKSHANK.

‘Meteorological Observations made at Huggate, Yorkshire,’ by the Rev. T. RANKIN.—This was a series of tables and observations on the most remarkable meteorological phenomena observed during the year 1858-9 in Yorkshire, in continuation of a similar contribution continued for many years by the same author. They included observations with tables on barometer and thermometer, wet-bulb thermometer, rain-gauge, winds, aurora, the comet, and other remarkable phenomena, such as thunderstorms.

TUESDAY.

‘On Three Variable Stars, R and S Ursae Majoris, and U Geminorum, as observed consecutively for Six Years by Mr. Pogson,’ communicated by Dr. LEE.

‘On an Improvement in the Heliometer,’ by Mr. N. POGSON.—The purpose of this communication is to suggest what I conceive to be a great addition to the power of any kind of micrometer used for measuring long distances on the double-image principle. It is therefore especially applicable to heliometers, and has indeed occurred to me chiefly from familiarity with the defects which have hitherto rendered this costly but magnificent instrument a comparative failure. It is well known to practical astronomers that the contact between two stars, however skilfully made, is a very unsatisfactory observation, even when the objects are pretty equal. But when one is a large bright star and the other a faint one, the difficulty and uncertainty amount to impossibility; for the faint star is invariably obliterated on approaching within two or three seconds of its superior. The alternative is then to diminish the aperture of that half of the object-glass through which the brighter star is viewed; but here again arises another evil; the disc is enlarged by diffraction, the value of the scale sensibly changed, and definition materially injured. Hence, parallax determinations of first magnitude stars, such as Arcturus and a Lyra, cannot be satisfactorily made; but when the object is a double star, as, for instance, 61 Cygni or Castor, the comparison star can be brought between the components of the double star, and a most exquisitely perfect and comfortable measure obtained. Now, from having used the rock-crystal prism micrometer when residing at Oxford last

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year, then kindly lent me, together with a five-foot telescope of surpassing excellence, by Dr. Lee, the idea occurred to me of introducing a prism, or achromatized wedge of rock crystal, into the heliometer, so as to double the image of the brighter star. By this means the dubious contact would be dispensed with; for the fainter object, by being brought midway between the two images of the bright star, would be precisely similar to the present easy observation of 61 Cygni previously referred to. The prism could be of such a constant angle as to separate the two images to a convenient distance; not too far, so as to render the estimation of distance difficult, but just wide enough to prevent the obliteration of a faint comparison star, before named as one of the evils to be avoided. The prism rather improves the appearance of a bright star than otherwise, and as the images are doubled, of course half the light of each is lost, equivalent to a considerable reduction of the aperture, thus obviating the third objection alluded to at starting. Armed with this addition to its strength, and taking the precaution never to observe on bad nights, when the atmosphere will not permit the use of powers from three hundred upwards—for I hold it as an absurdity to attempt to investigate tenths of a second of arc with anything less—the heliometer is doubtless yet destined to realize the highest expectations ever raised, as to its efficiency for grappling with that most minutely intricate and vastly important research, viz., the parallax of the fixed stars!

'On recent Theories and Experiments on Ice at its Melting Point,' by Prof. J. THOMSON.

'On the Mid-day Illumination of three Lunar Craters,' by Mr. W. R. BIRT.

'On Chinese Astronomy,' by Mr. J. B. LINDSAY.—The object of the present paper is to draw the attention of this Section to the fact, that much information may be derived from Chinese literature in order to perfect our astronomy. The 'Chun-taiu,' written by Confucius, contains an account of thirty-six eclipses (several of them total), and several comets, falling stars, and meteorites. The first eclipse here recorded was in the year before our era 719, the last was in B.C. 494,—thus comprising 225 years. Confucius was born in B.C. 550, and died at the age of seventy-three in B.C. 477. In a book lately published I have given an extract of the thirty-six eclipses; but the whole of the 'Chun-taiu' deserves to be translated and published. I have myself made a translation of the whole *verbatim*, but should prefer seeing it published by another better acquainted with the Chinese. The 'Chun-taiu' is a short chronicle of events; but there is an extended commentary on it entitled the 'Tso-chuen' by Tso-kin-ming, who was a contemporary and an intimate friend of Confucius. This work should, I think, be also translated, as it gives a detailed account of astronomical observations, and comes thirteen years further down than the work of Confucius. Another work, entitled the 'Kwo-yu,' supposed to have been by the same author, contains an Appendix by another person, bringing down the history to B.C. 453. The succeeding history was principally written, and the celestial phenomena recorded, by Szi-ma-tsien, who lived a century before our era. His work is entitled 'Shi-ki,' or *Historic Memoirs*. He was Imperial Historian, as was also his father,—and his work is extremely interesting, as giving an account not only of Chinese affairs, but also of the Scythians and Turks who were then on the north-west borders of China. The 123rd chapter, recording foreign events, has been translated into French by Brosset, and is found in the *Journal Asiatique* for 1828. This chapter comprises the history of forty-three years, or from B.C. 140 to B.C. 97, shortly before the author's death. Small portions of the 'Shi-ki' have been translated into English, but the whole deserves to be so. A translation of the whole Chinese history and literature before our era would not be voluminous; but the 'Chun-taiu,' the 'Tso-chuen,' and the 'Shi-ki' should, I think, be translated first. Extended notes would be necessary to render the whole intelligible, and the Astronomer Royal might append notes on the various eclipses. The ancient Chinese classics are nine in number,—five of the first class, and four of the second. The five

of the first class are the 'Shu-king,' the 'Shi-king,' the 'I-king,' the 'Li-ki,' and the 'Chun-taiu.' The 'Shu-king' has been translated into French by Desguignes,—the 'Shi-king' into Latin by Lecharme,—the 'I-king' into Latin by Regis, and others,—the 'Li-ki' into French by Gallay; but the 'Chun-taiu' has not yet been translated into any European language. The four books of the second class have been often translated into Latin and French. Their names are, the 'Ta-teo,' the 'Chung-yung,' the 'Lun-yu,' and 'Mang-tzzi,' or Mencius,—scarcely any of which have been translated into English. I do not know if the Astronomer Royal be present; but I have reason to know that he is very anxious for the translation of the astronomical records.

'On the Decomposed Glass found at Nineveh and other Places,' by Sir D. BREWSTER.—He described the general appearance of glass in an extreme state of decomposition, when the decomposed part was so rotten as to break easily between the fingers, a piece of undecomposed glass being generally found in the middle of the plate. He then explained how, in other specimens, the decomposition took place around one, two, or more points, forming hemispherical cups, which exhibit the black cross and the tints of polarized light. In illustration of this decomposition, he showed to the Meeting three specimens, in one of which there was no colour, but which consisted of innumerable circular cavities with the black cross, these cavities giving it the appearance of ground-glass. In another specimen the film was specular and of great beauty, showing the complementary colours by reflection of transmitted light. In a third variety the films were filled with circular cavities exhibiting the most beautiful colours, both in common and polarized light. Various other remarkable properties of these films were described by the author.

'On the Fall of Rain at several Places in Forfarshire,' by Mr. A. BROWN.

'On the Climate of Orkney,' by the Rev. J. C. CLOUSTON.

'On the Meteorology of British Guiana,' by Mr. P. SANDEMAN, Colonial Observer, British Guiana.

Dr. ROBINSON inquired by whom these observations had been conducted, and at whose expense they had been published.—The answer he received was, that they had been made and published chiefly by funds raised in the colony, and by the enterprise and zeal of Mr. Sandeman.—He then continued his observations, saying that he looked upon it as a disgrace to the mother-country to leave such efforts as these—which, of course, were of far more value to the world at large than they could be to the locality in which they were made, as there they were the subjects of every person's daily experience—to be made, and even the expense of publishing them, to fall, no doubt heavily, either on the colony or on individuals like Mr. Sandeman, who, though zealous in the cause of science, had yet, of course, to consider their own material interests; and he wished earnestly to call the attention of Admiral FITZROY to the consideration of this subject.—Admiral FITZROY said that if he were furnished with the observations, he would take care that they should be published. But being informed that they were already published in the colony, he said he would confer with Mr. Sandeman, and see in what manner the Board of Trade could co-operate or aid in the exertions so laudably and well initiated.

'On Mild Winters in the British Isles,' by Prof. HENNESSY.—He pointed out the circumstance that the meteorological observations made during the late remarkably mild winter tended to confirm the law which he had already announced in a letter to General Sabine, which appears in the *Proceedings of the Royal Society* for 1858. This law is, that during mild winters the coast stations exhibit an increase of temperature more than inland stations, and that the temperature on the west and south coasts approaches towards uniformity. In France, as pointed out by M. Liais, the first part of this law is found to hold good, as evinced in the comparative climatology of Cherbourg and Paris. Mr. Hennessy referred these phenomena to an

abnormal extension of heat-bearing currents across the Atlantic. From the greater stability of such currents than those of the atmosphere, and from the important influence they undoubtedly exercise upon our climate, he is led to infer that we are rapidly approaching a period when it may become possible to foretell whether the winter shall be cold or warm by knowing the conditions of temperature and the movements of currents in the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic during the summer and autumn.

'On the Figure of an imperfectly Elastic Fluid,' by Prof. HENNESSY.—It appears that the shape of a mass of such a fluid is dependent on its volume in such a way that any abstraction from it will in general be attended with a change of figure. This proposition, when applied to the case of a mass in rotation, shows that if the earth has gradually passed into its present state from one of complete fluidity, the figure of the inner surface of the consolidated crust must be less elliptical than the stratum of fluid out of which it was formed.

'On the Annual Variation of the Barometer,' by Mr. A. BROWN.—It has been stated by Prof. Dove, and the truth of the assertion has been admitted by some of the leading meteorologists in England, that when the tension of vapour in the atmosphere is subducted from the whole atmospheric pressure (for each hour of the day), the remaining diurnal variation of the pressure of dry air has a period of twenty-four hours, the maximum of the morning disappearing. This resolution of the barometric fluctuations into two oscillations, each of which has a single maximum and a single minimum in the course of the day, coinciding nearly with the epochs of greatest and least temperature. This conducted its author to a very simple explanation of the whole phenomenon. The object of Mr. Brown's communication is to point out the insufficiency of this explanation. This is stated to appear from a discussion of the observations made at Trevandrum, in India, and at a neighbouring station in close vicinity to the sea, from the observations at Makerstoun, in Scotland, and from the observations of Nertschinsk, in Siberia. Mr. Brown concludes his paper by proposing a very different explanation of the barometric oscillation, in which it is ascribed to the inducing action of the sun (magnetic or electric) upon the earth's atmosphere.

'On the Theory of Light,' by Mr. G. F. HARRINGTON.—A purely speculative communication.

'On the Cause of Magnetism,' by Mr. G. V. FOWLER,—which he thinks has traced to the superior conducting power of iron.

'On the Diurnal Variation of the Barometer,' by Mr. T. DAVIES.—This communication was illustrated by diagrams, which showed two chief maxima and two lesser maxima, with the corresponding intervening minima, at critical hours of the day.

'On the Angles of Dock-gates and the Cells of Bees,' by Mr. C. WILLICH.—This ingenious paper, which was illustrated with models admirably calculated to make this abstruse subject intelligible, gave a very interesting history of the speculations of mathematicians in their successive attempts to discover the angle which gave the greatest strength to support pressure with the greatest economy of materials. It showed that, though some of the mathematicians had fallen into error, the bees, by a peculiar instinct, had always used the mathematically-correct angles. The models showed exactly the manner in which the surfaces were arranged so as to produce the desired effect.

'On an Expression for the Probability of a given Deviation from a Mean Result,' by Mr. R. CAMPBELL.—This ingenious paper showed how the mathematical theorems of the doctrine of probability could be applied to many of the questions interesting to actuaries and political economists, statisticians and other persons engaged in practical inquiries of the greatest importance. It was, however, much too abstruse to be made interesting to the general reader.

'On a System of Moving Bodies,' by Mr. A. S. S. WILSON.—The author attempted to prove, from the well-known dynamical theorem, that the centre of gravity of an entire system of bodies in either at rest or moves uniformly in a straight line, and that

the phenomena of weight and the fall of projectiles on the surface of the planets are caused not by forces inherent in these systems, but by their motions in space.

'On the Longitude,' by Sir C. GREY.—The Astronomers of the Section pronounced the speculations of this paper quite untenable.

## WEDNESDAY.

'On the Relations of a Circle inscribed in a Square,' by Mr. J. SMITH.—The author enunciated a few well-known relations in imperfect decimal expression derived from the approximate numerical expression for the circumference of a circle.

'On the Reduction of Prof. Forbes's Observations of Underground Temperatures,' by Prof. W. THOMSON.

'On the same Subject, with its Application to Monthly Mean-temperatures,' by Prof. J. D. EVERETT.

'On the Inclination of the Planetary Orbits,' by Mr. J. P. HENNESSY.—The author stated, that on consulting a synoptic table of the planetary elements, some law had been obtained for the other elements, but none hitherto for the inclinations of the several orbits. This he conceived arose from the inclinations being set down in reference to the plane of the earth's orbit; for he found that a very remarkable relation manifested itself when they were tabulated in reference to the plane of the Sun's equator. The author had written on the board two tables: one, the ordinary table in reference to the Ecliptic; the other, that to which he wished to draw attention, having reference to the plane of the Sun's equator. In the latter, it was seen as a general law, that the inclinations of the planetary orbits increased as the distances of the several planets from the sun increased. Thus, the inclination of the orbit of Mercury to the plane of the Sun's equator was but  $0^{\circ} 19' 51''$ , while that of Neptune was  $9^{\circ} 6' 51''$ . The only considerable deviation from regular progression being found, as might be expected, among the Asteroids: of which, if we take Victoria as a type, her inclination is no less than  $15^{\circ} 42' 15''$ . The author considered that the fact that the orbits of the larger planets, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune, are not more inclined, would seem to confirm a surmise of La Place, who, in his 'Exposition du Système du Monde,' speculates on the order in which the planets were thrown off from the Sun, and supposes that Jupiter, Saturn, &c. were thus formed long before Mercury, Venus, the Earth and Mars. If so, the oblateness of the Sun would in its condition at that time have tended more powerfully than in its subsequent or present state to keep the planets near the plane of its equator. The discovery of this law regulating the inclinations of the planetary orbits appeared to him another addition to the class of facts which establish the analogy between the Solar system and that of Jupiter and his satellites, it being well known to astronomers that the inclination of the orbits of the latter to the plane of Jupiter's equator was a function of their distances and masses.

'On an Instrument for exhibiting the Motions of a Ring of Satellites,' by Prof. C. MAXWELL.—The author exhibited an instrument made by Messrs. Smith & Ramage, of Aberdeen, to exhibit the motion of a ring of satellites about a central body, as investigated in his Essay on the 'Motion of Saturn's Ring.' It is there shown that a solid or fluid ring will be broken up, and that the fragments will continue in the form of a ring if certain conditions are fulfilled. The instrument exhibits the motion of these fragments, as deduced from the mathematical theory.

'On the Dynamical Theory of Gases,' by Prof. C. MAXWELL.—The phenomena of the expansion of gases by heat, and their compression by pressure, have been explained by Joule, Claussens, Herapath, &c., by the theory of their particles being in a state of rapid motion, the velocity depending on the temperature. These particles must not only strike against the sides of the vessel, but against each other, and the calculation of their motions is therefore complicated. The author has established the following results:—1. The velocities of the particles are not uniform, but vary so, that they deviate from the mean value by a law well

known in the "method of least squares." 2. Two different sets of particles will distribute their velocities, so that their *vires viva* will be equal; and this leads to the chemical law, that the equivalents of gases are proportional to their specific gravities. 3. From Prof. Stokes's experiments on friction in air, it appears that the distance travelled by a particle between consecutive collisions is about  $1500$  of an inch, the mean velocity being about  $1,500$  feet per second; and therefore each particle makes  $8,077,200,000$  collisions per second. 4. The laws of the diffusion of gases, as established by the Master of the Mint, are deduced from this theory, and the absolute rate of diffusion through an opening can be calculated.—The author intends to apply his mathematical methods to the explanation on this hypothesis of the propagation of sound, and expects some light on the mysterious question of the absolute number of such particles in a given mass.

'On a New Photometer,' by the Abbé MOIGNO.—The Abbé described the instrument so rapidly in French, that we were not able clearly to comprehend its construction. He asserted, however, that it could be applied to determine the intensity of the light of the fixed stars, and even of the several parts of the surface of the sun.

The Abbé also handed to the Secretary the titles of four other communications, which the time of the Section did not permit him then to bring forward; but which he intended to forward to the General Secretaries for insertion in the forthcoming volume of Reports of the Proceedings of the British Association at Aberdeen.

'On a Proposal for a General Mechanical Theory of Physics,' by Mr. J. S. S. GLENNIE.—This seemed to be a very ingenious proposal; but it was entirely lost by the low tone of voice in which Mr. Glennie spoke, and the very limited time which the Chairman could allow to its exposition.

'On the Distribution of Heat over the Sun's Surface,' by Mr. J. J. MURPHY.

'On the Philosophy of Physics,' by Dr. MACVICAR.—The author, by certain ingenious but purely metaphysical speculations, endeavoured to deduce what he considered the three elementary and fundamental properties of matter, viz., Inertia, Elasticity, and Gravity, from the very being or existence of matter, aided by what he termed the law of assimilation to itself and its own state, which seemed to be an inherent tendency to retain its own state, or, if disturbed, to recover it in the simplest possible manner.

'On the Relation between Refractive Index and Volume,' by the Rev. T. DALE and Dr. GLADSTONE.—The authors referred to a previous paper, in which they had shown, among other things, that the *sensitiveness* of a substance is not directly proportional to the change of density produced by an alteration of temperature. The theoretical formulæ relating to the dispersion of light afford little assistance in determining what this relation is, but a series of careful observations had been made with a view of arriving at some empirical formula. It was found that the product of the volume, reckoned as 1,000 at the boiling point, and the refractive index for the line A of the prismatic spectrum less unity, gave numbers which were nearly constant. In the case of water, alcohol, pure wood spirit, and bisulphide of carbon, however, the volume increases a little faster in proportion than the refractive index less unity diminishes, while with ether the reverse is the case. The regularity of the numbers shows that this is not due to errors of experiment. The authors propose examining the subject more closely.

The Section passed a vote of thanks to the President, Lord Rosse, for his unremitting attention to the duties of chairman, and for the assistance he had given the less professional members of the Section towards comprehending the more technical communications, and then adjourned till the Meeting at Oxford.

## SECTION B.—CHEMICAL SCIENCE.

## MONDAY.

'On a New Mode of Bread-making,' by Dr. ODLING.—By this process the carbonic acid is produced independently of, and superadded to, the

flour, which consequently undergoes no modification whatever. The carbonic acid gas is stored in an ordinary gas-holder, and is pumped therefrom into a cylindrical vessel of water, whereby the water becomes charged with gas. This soda-water is mixed under pressure with the flour, and the resulting dough becomes vesicular on removing the pressure. It is then divided into loaves and baked. This process is so rapid that in an hour and a half from the first wetting of the flour, a sack of flour is made into two-pound loaves. The advantages of this new mode are—its cleanliness; from the beginning to the end of the operation, neither the flour nor the water is touched by the human hand; it conduces to the health of the work-people; it is a very rapid process; it is certain and uniform; and it prevents any deterioration of the flour, so that by this process you can use flour which would require alum in the ordinary process.

'On the Composition of Thames Water,' by Drs. ODLING and DUPRÉ.

'Report on the Recent Progress and Present State of Organic Chemistry,' by Mr. G. C. FOSTER.

'Notice of Dugong Oil.'

'On the Solubility of Bone-earth from Various Sources in Solutions of Chloride of Ammonium and Common Salt,' by Mr. BINNEY.

'Report on Field Experiments on the Essential Manuring Constituents of Cultivated Crops,' by Prof. VOELCKER.—The field experiments, which extended over a period of four years, had special reference to the turnip-crops. Dr. Voelcker described the plan upon which these experiments were undertaken, and mentioned the results which were obtained. Amongst other points of interest to the agriculturist, it may be noticed, as the result of four years' experience in the growth of turnips under particular conditions,—1. That fertilizers destitute of phosphoric acid do not increase the yield of this crop; 2. That phosphate of lime applied to the soil in the shape of soluble phosphate (super-phosphate) increases this crop in an especial manner, and that the practical value of artificial manures for root-crops chiefly depends on the relative amount of available phosphates which they contain. Thus it was shown that 3 cwt. of super-phosphate per acre produced as large an increase of turnips as 15 tons of farm-yard manure; 3. That ammoniacal salts and nitrogenized constituents yielding ammonia on decomposition, have no beneficial effect upon turnips, but rather the reverse; 4. That ammoniacal salts applied alone do not promote, as maintained erroneously, the luxuriant development of leaves; but that they produce this effect to a certain extent when salts of ammonia are applied to the land in conjunction with the mineral constituents found in the ashes of turnips. The Report likewise states that numerous analyses of turnips have been made, from which it appears that the more nutritious and least ripened roots invariably contain less nitrogen than half-ripened roots, or turnips of low feeding qualities. In the latter, the proportion of nitrogen was found in several instances two to two-and-a-half times as high as in roots distinguished for their good feeding qualities.

Similar experiments upon wheat showed that nitrogenized ammoniacal matters, which proved inefficacious in relation to turnips, increase the yield of corn and straw very materially, and that the increase of wheat was largest when the ammoniacal constituents were associated with mineral matters.

## TUESDAY.

'On Soluble Silicates, and some of their Applications,' by Mr. F. RANSOME.—The writer gave a history of the discovery of the Soluble Silicates, and of the various researches and experiments of Dr. Fuchs of Munich, and of Prof. Kulmann of Lille, and of the several applications of these silicates to Stereochromy, to the various branches of manufacture, and of the effects of their combination with lime, whether carbonate, sulphate, phosphate, or caustic; but described more in detail the value of their application in the manufacture of artificial stone, and in the preservation of natural stone, &c. from decay.

'Notes on the Current Methods for estimating Cellulose, or "Woody Fibre," in Vegetable Food-stuffs,' by Mr. T. SEGELKE.

'On the Composition of Land,' by M.

'On the Composition of Water,' by M.

'On the Composition of the Form of Bodies,' by M.

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'On the Effects of different Manures on the Composition of the Mixed Herbage of Meadow Land,' by MESSRS. LAWES and GILBERT.

'On the Organic Elements and their Relations to each other and to the Medium of Light, illustrated by Models according to the Author's Theory of the Forms and Structures of the Molecules of Bodies,' by DR. MAGVICAR.

'On Crystallized Bi-chromate of Strontia,' by DR. DALZELL.

'On the Economical Preparation of Pure Chromic Acid,' by DR. DALZELL.

'On Corne and Demeaux's Disinfecting and Deodorizing Powder,' by the Abbé MOIGNO.

'On Matches without Phosphorus or Poison,' by the Abbé MOIGNO.

'To exhibit a Nephogene, capable of being adapted to many Chemical, Therapeutic, and Hygienic Purposes,' by the Abbé MOIGNO.

'On the Equivalent of Bromine,' by DR. WALLACE.

'On Proposed Improvements in the Manufacture of Kelp,' by DR. WALLACE.—The chief defects of the present system were pointed out, and, by way of remedy, it was proposed that sheds should be erected for the desiccation of the weeds and their preservation from rain, and that the weeds should be burned or charred at a low temperature into a loose ash, instead of being strongly ignited and subjected to fusion as now practised. By this process the loss of iodine that appears at present to occur, and the production of sulphur compound, which cause an enormous consumption of vitriol in their decomposition, would be entirely avoided.

DR. WALLACE described the varieties of weeds used by the kelpers, and described the results of a series of experiments, conducted with the object of estimating the quantities of iodine and potash in the ashes of the various weeds when prepared by the improved process. From these it appeared that the ashes of the deep-sea tangle contained 28 lb., that of the black wreck, 9 lb., and that of the yellow or bladder wreck, 6 lb. of iodine per ton of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  cwt. DR. WALLACE concluded by calling upon the proprietors of the kelp-bearing shores to interest themselves more than they have hitherto done in this important manufacture, and to expend some capital in the erection of sheds, and purchase of such simple apparatus as the islanders are capable of using with advantage. By doing so, they would confer an important benefit upon their poor tenants, and insure greatly augmented returns from their estates.

DR. DAUBENY exhibited Specimens of several varieties of Volcanic Tufs, from the neighbourhood of Rome and Naples.

'Reports from the Laboratory at Marburg,' by DR. GUTHRIE.

'New Process of etching Glass in Relief by Hydrofluoric Acid,' by MR. NAPIER.

WEDNESDAY.

'On Combinations of Earthy Phosphates with Alkalies,' by PROF. VOELCKER.

'On Marsh's Test for Arsenic,' by DR. ODLING.—The author showed that numerous and varied bodies, including the organic substance contained in ordinary vegetable tissue, animal tissue, salts of copper, and oxidizing salts, prevented the formation of arseniated hydrogen, and thereby defeated the action of Marsh's test. As a mode of separating the arsenic from these interfering substances, the author recommended the process of distillation with muriatic acid, whereby arsenic in form of trichloride of arsenic is isolated in a form suitable for testing.

'Quantitative Estimation of Tannin in some Tanning Materials,' by MESSRS. MULLIGAN and DOWLING.

MR. C. J. BURNETT exhibited some Photographs toned with a solution of bichloride of platinum, rendered strongly adhesive by carbonate of soda, the previous addition of a little tartaric acid also being apparently a further improvement. Platinum toning had been introduced in France some years ago, but, as far as Mr. Burnett could find out, did not seem there or here to have been found generally satisfactory, apparently from chemical reasons which Mr. Burnett mentioned. The addition of carbonate of soda, as made by Mr. Burnett, was an attempt to remove some of those objections and render platinum more available.

'On the Different Points of Fusion to be observed in the Constituents of Granite,' by MR. M. F. BIALLOBLOTZKY.

'On some new Cases of Phosphorescence by Heat,' by DR. PHIPSON.

#### SECTION C.—GEOLOGY.

MONDAY.

'On Brachiopoda, and on the Development of the Loop in Terebratula,' by MR. C. MOORE.

'A Letter to Sir Charles Lyell on the occurrence of a Land Shell and Reptiles in the South Joggins Coal-field, Nova Scotia,' by DR. DAWSON.

'On the Relations of the Gneiss, Red Sandstone, and Quartzite in the North-West Highlands,' by PROF. NICOL.—PROF. NICOL had visited the highlands, and had arrived at a different conclusion as to the succession of certain crystalline and sub-crystalline rocks from that arrived at by Sir R. Murchison. He contended that the great series of rocks in question were of older date than that assigned to them by Sir R. Murchison, and endeavoured to prove, by a reference to the sections which he exhibited, that the order of super-position which he advocated was the correct one.

THE PRESIDENT said, this question was a difficult one of interpretation, and the burden of proof lay upon those who, like Sir R. Murchison, contended that the highly crystalline rocks were of the newest date.—SIR R. MURCHISON, at considerable length, replied to Prof. Nicol, referring to sections which he had prepared, and maintaining with great confidence that the order of super-position he had formerly contended for was the correct one. In company with Prof. RAMSAY, he had examined the country, and although they were aware of the difficulties of certain obscure sections here and there, he contended that, in no country he had ever examined, in any part of the world, had he ever seen a clearer order of super-position than that which he had endeavoured to point out—viz., the superimposition of quartz rock upon the limestone.—PROF. RAMSAY confirmed the views of Sir R. Murchison, stating that he had noticed for miles the superimposition of the quartz rock upon the limestone without any break, and felt not the slightest doubt upon the subject.—PROF. SEDGWICK spoke in corroboration of the views of Sir R. Murchison and Prof. RAMSAY. Going hastily over the country, it certainly appeared to him that the order of super-position was that contended for by Sir Roderick, although it was perfectly possible that more extended observation might induce them to come ultimately to a different conclusion.

'On the newly-discovered Reptilian Remains from the neighbourhood of Elgin,' by PROF. HUXLEY.—Having received specimens of sandstone containing what he considered traces of Reptilia, in order to work out the problem of their character, he was put in communication with Mr. Duff and the Rev. Mr. Gordon, but for whose efficient co-operation his labours must have been in vain. He was fortunate to obtain specimens containing impressions which led him to conclude it was a reptile, and not a fish. He next obtained impressions in the sandstone of what appeared to have been once a bone, resembling the bony plates of an alligator, from which he came to the conclusion that the reptile was one of the crocodilian species. Looking for further coincidence, he had received a fossil, which Prof. AGASSIZ had declared the most extraordinary he had ever seen; and a cast taken from it appeared to represent the tail of the old reptile. He then had a cast taken from a fossil having a most extraordinary cavity in it, which appeared to be its dorsal vertebra; from another specimen he got a piece of vertebra, such as support the hips in crocodiles; and he, too, got a bit of sandstone having an impression of vertebrae, with marks peculiarly characteristic of the neck; and to ascertain what the teeth or head was like, they had obtained a piece of stone with the impression of an upper jaw and a series of teeth, essentially resembling those of a crocodile, and from these and other traces he came to the conclusion that it had been a crocodilian reptile allied to the Dinosaurian series, but presenting various points of difference from all existing or fossil species, and that the period of its existence must have been that presented by the green sandstone. He also

gave an account of the impressions in other pieces of sandstone—which Mr. Gordon had sent him indicating another reptile, with curious palatal teeth, which, in honour of the Rev. Mr. Gordon, he called *Hyperodapedon Gordoni*. He also received two bits of rock, one containing a reptilian impression like a staganolepis.

PROF. OWEN said no one could fail to be impressed with the extreme minuteness and accuracy with which Prof. Huxley had examined the facts, and with the clearness with which the facts had been described; and still more with the accuracy and soundness of the deductions which Professor Huxley had made. The paper read afforded very instructive evidence of the value of the law of co-relation of structure; because, at the last meeting of the British Association at Leeds, he had arrived at the conclusion, from observing a portion of the bone then exhibited, that these specimens were reptilian in their nature, and had published that opinion in an article in the 'Encyclopaedia Britannica.' He concurred entirely with the conclusions which Prof. Huxley had drawn from a more complete view of those bones. He now for the first time began to feel that the evidence of the structure of the cranium was most interesting, and necessary to be made known before they had a complete and satisfactory idea of the nature of the staganolepis.

'On the Yellow Sandstones of Elgin and Lossie-mouth,' by PROF. HARKNESS.

'On the Age of the Reptile Sandstone of Morayshire,' by MR. J. MILLER.

'On the supposed Wealden and other Beds near Elgin,' by MR. C. MOORE.

'On Dura Den Sandstone,' by REV. DR. ANDERSON.

TUESDAY.

MAJOR-GEN. PORTLOCK occupied the chair, in the absence of the President.

'On Faults in Cumberland and Lancashire,' by PROF. SEDGWICK.

'On some Observations on the Parallel Roads of Glenroy,' by PROF. ROGERS.

'On the Structure, Affinities, and Geological Range of Eurypterides,' by MR. PAGE.

'On Sections along the Southern Flanks of the Grampians,' by PROF. HARKNESS.

'On some Old Red Sandstone Fossils,' by MR. J. WYLLIE.

'On New Fossil Fish from Caithness,' by MR. C. W. PEACH.

'On Tertiary Fossils of India,' by MR. W. H. BAILY.—The object of this communication was to give merely a sketch of results from the study of a large suite of fossils collected chiefly from Burmah and Tenasserim Province, by PROF. T. OLDHAM, superintendent of the Geological Survey of India, the details being intended for publication in the 'Memoirs of the Geological Survey of India.' The majority of the fossils was stated to be of Eocene age, most of them having been obtained from the banks of the Irrawaddy and from Prome and its neighbourhood. PROF. OLDHAM also collected Nummulitic fossils from Kurrachee Salt Range of the Punjab, Mammalian remains from the Seawalki group; fish teeth and scales from Heinlat, Tenasserim, and Carboniferous fossils also from Tenasserim Province. A list of the Tertiary fossils was given, the majority belonging to Mollusca and to the following other classes:—Articulata—Crustacea and Cirripedia; Radiata—Annelida and Echinodermata; Protozoa—Foraminifera. The collection was said to contain many new and undescribed species, and to present a facies or certain amount of resemblance generically, but not specifically, with those from the Tertiary deposits of Europe, whilst, on the contrary, it was mentioned as a somewhat remarkable fact, that the further we go back in geological time so much the greater is seen to be the resemblance between the marine fossil Faunas of distant geographical areas; for instance, the Lower Silurian fossils of the furthest point yet reached in Arctic explorations are many of them absolutely identical with species from that formation found in our own country, whilst those from the more modern deposits of Cretaceous and Tertiary age continue their relations more by representation of forms than identity of species. A fact confirmatory of the important observations

made by the late Prof. E. Forbes on the interesting subject of the distribution of species in geological time. Allusion was made to the various *Memoirs* on the Palaeontology of India which have from time to time appeared, principally in the *Transactions and Proceedings* of the Geological Society of London, by which we are made acquainted with the geological formation of a great part of that country, showing a succession of fossiliferous strata from the Upper Tertiaries, commencing with the mammalian remains of the Sewalik hills, believed to be of Miocene age, and continuing through the Nummulitic group and other Eocene beds, the Cretaceous and Oolitic series together with Liias and Trias, to the Carboniferous and Devonian or Upper Palaeozoic.

WEDNESDAY.

'On a Horse-Shoe Nail found in the Red Sandstone of Kingoodie,' by Sir D. BREWSTER.

'On a Fragment of Pottery found in Superficial Deposits in Paris,' by M. A. RADIGUET.

'Report on the Results obtained by the Mechanico-Chemical Examination of Rocks and Minerals,' by M. A. GAGE.

'On the Rocks and Minerals in the Property of the Marquis of Breadalbane,' by Mr. C. G. THOST.

'On the Elephant Remains at Ilford,' by Mr. A. BRADY.—The first fossil to which I wish to direct attention is the tusk of an enormous mammoth, which was discovered about two years since. It was lying on its side, about 14 feet below the present surface of the soil; and I had the honour of inviting Sir Charles Lyell, and other eminent geologists, to see it before it was disturbed. It belonged to an animal of the species *Elephas primogenitus*, and is identical with the Siberian mammoth, and, I believe, with the one found in Behring's Straits. The tusk was decayed at each end, the extremities being gone, but the part preserved was over 9 feet long, and of proportionate bulk. Some idea may be formed from this of the huge size of the animal of which it formerly formed a part. It was very much incurved, being so much bent back that the bone was not more than 4 feet 2 or 3 inches across in any part. Owing to the nature of the soil, the whole tusk was very friable, most of the gluten of the ivory being decayed, so that great care was required in moving it to prevent it falling to pieces. This was done in the usual manner by the authority of the British Museum, to whom, by permission of Mr. Curtis, I presented the fossil; it was, however, I regret to say, much damaged by removal, notwithstanding the care bestowed. It was nearly a year afterwards before any more bones were found. I then obtained a large tibia, and two molar teeth, probably belonging to the same animal, as they were not a great way from the tusk. One of the latter was very large, weighing about 12 lb., though, from long use, much worn. From this, I infer that the mammoth to which it belonged must have been of great age. About the same time, I obtained several bones of a large rhinoceros. These, from their more compact nature, were less decayed; and the tibia and one side of the jaw were very perfect, several teeth being *in situ*. The other half of the jaw was smashed by the workman's pick before I saw it; but I saved several teeth. Like those of the mammoth, they were very much worn. Two of them I gave to the College of Surgeons. The rhinoceros has been referred to the genus *Leptorhinus*. Associated with these remains were some of the bones of a large ox, the horns and skull of which were very perfect, with several teeth *in situ*. There were also turned up, within the last month or two, some bones of a large ruminant, which I believe to be of the Minoceros, or Irish elk; but I have not yet been able to get them exhibited. About thirty years since, the late Dr. Buckland discovered the bones of a mammoth in this locality; and about the same time the late Mr. Gibson obtained the beautiful collection of bones now in the Royal College of Surgeons. Associated with the remains of those giants of ancient days are the skulls of *Planorbis*, *Mico*, *Cyclon*, *Paludina*, &c. And there are now living in the Roden, and other tributary brooks in the neighbourhood, the lineal descendants of these fossils, the ancestors of which enjoyed the same sunshine as the mammoth and rhinoceros.

the aristocracy of those days. We boast not of the primary rocks of Scotland, but we have amongst us, living on the same estate as their ancestors, the humble *Paludina*, *Planorbis*, &c. They are interesting, for they form, as it were, the link between the past and the present order of things.

The PRESIDENT expressed his opinion of the very interesting nature of this paper, showing, as it did, how near to the existence of man on earth those huge creatures lived; the vegetation of their time being such as we are acquainted with. He did not by any means suggest that they were contemporaneous with man, and they must disabuse their minds of the opinion that anything said or published by geologists was calculated to destroy any rational belief. They did not and could not assert—because they had no evidence—that man lived 15,000 or 20,000 years ago; but they produced evidence to show that those creatures lived nearer to our own time than had been supposed; whether at the exact chronology of 6,000 years, or thereby, is a matter of indifference.

'On some curious Results in the Water Supply afforded by a Spring at Ashey Down, in the Ryde Water-Works,' by Mr. E. R. J. KNOWLES.

The PRESIDENT stated a curious case that had come under his own notice at Portsmouth Victualling Yard. A supply of water was wanted. On the opposite side of the estuary were two artesian wells, at depths of 250 feet and 280, or thereabouts, respectively. Taking the advice of some persons who were geologists, the superior officer proceeded to lay out the money granted for water supply in digging another artesian well on the Portsmouth side, naturally expecting to find water at about the same depth as on the other side. At 300 feet, however, in the London clay no water appeared; his superior got uneasy, but was persuaded to go on; at 400 feet no water! Again they went on, but only at 560 feet, or thereby, on getting through into the plastic clay, was water obtained, which rose to within three feet of the surface.

'On the Constitution of the Earth,' by the Rev. J. DINGLE.

'On Slickensides,' by Mr. J. PRICE.

'On a Cave near Montrose,' by Mr. J. BEATTIE.

'On the Remains of Lower Oolites in Urquhart, Elgin,' by the Rev. J. MORRISON.

'On some Basaltic Formations in Northumberland,' by Mr. W. S. GIBSON.

#### SECTION D.—ZOOLOGY AND BOTANY, INCLUDING PHYSIOLOGY.

MONDAY.

'List of the Birds of the North of Scotland, with their Distribution,' by Mr. F. JAMESON.—This paper was laid on the table, but not read.

Dr. LANKESTER read two communications, one from Mr. J. ALDER, and the other from Prof. BUSK, containing descriptions of new species of animals dredged by Mr. Barlee, off Shetland. The papers were illustrated with drawings of all the new species. Mr. Alder described a new Zoophyte, which he named *Campanularia fastigata*, and two species of Echinodermata, belonging to the Crioidae and Sipunculidae, respectively. He also added lists of the rare Mollusca and Polyzoa collected by Mr. Barlee in Shetland. Prof. Busk described several new species of Polyzoa from the same collections.

'On the Disguises of Nature,' by Mr. A. MURRAY.—The author in this paper drew attention to the external resemblances of natural objects, which differed widely in their true structure and affinities. Numerous instances were given of the resemblances between plants and animals and animals and plants. Also resemblances in plants and animals which were widely separated.

The reading of this paper led to a number of remarks on the varied aspects assumed by animals and plants.—Mr. GOULD stated that the birds of warm climates were more brilliantly coloured than those of colder ones.

'On the Mollusca of Aberdeenshire,' by Dr. DICKIE.—The number of species amounts to two hundred and thirty. The hills of Aberdeenshire are singularly deficient in land Mollusca, only three species having been found.

Mr. GOULD exhibited several new species of Birds of a new genus. For these additions to this beautiful family he was indebted to Mr. Wallace, who had succeeded in obtaining a large number of new birds. The species exhibited were *Paradisea apoda*, from Arru Island, *P. papuana* and *rubra*, from New Guinea, *Diphyllodes magnifica*, *Ptiloris nigricans*, *Parotia aurea*, and *Semioptera Wallacei*, from New Guinea, and *Ciannurus regius*, from Arru Island.

Prof. ALDER made an oral communication on the discovery of some new forms of animal life in the Orkney Islands. These he named *Lacmides tenua*, *Clava disreta*, *Dicoryne stricta*, and a species of mollusk, which he believed to belong to the genus *Atlanta*.

Dr. LANKESTER exhibited a series of drawings from life of the various species of British spiders by Mr. Tuffen West. They were intended to illustrate Mr. Blackwall's forthcoming work on British Spiders to be published by the Ray Society. Dr. Lankester sold contributions of living spiders, which might be sent by post, to enable Mr. West to continue his sketches from life.

Mr. H. T. MINTON expressed his admiration of the faithful and life-like sketches of Mr. West.

Mr. HOGG exhibited a species of *Phalangium* which had been recently shot in the county of Durham, and which was undoubtedly an escape from a menagerie.

'Remarks on the Cultivation of the Opium Poppy of China,' by Dr. M'GOWAN.

'On the Structure of the Otolites of the Cod (*Gadus Morrhua*),' by Dr. REDFERN.

This paper raised an interesting discussion on the origin of tissues, in which Mr. LUBBOCK, Mr. MACDONALD, Dr. LANKESTER, Dr. OGILVIE, and Dr. DICKIE took part.

'Note on the Method of Production of Sound by a Species of *Notonecta*,' by Dr. REDFERN.—The sound was produced by the scraping together of its fore feet.

'Notes on Different Subjects in Natural History, illustrated by Specimens,' by M. PEACH.

TUESDAY.

The various specimens of natural history collected by Mr. PEACH on the coast of Wick, and presented by him to the Museum of Marischal College, were exhibited to the Section.

The Rev. W. S. SYMONDS gave an account of the fish-rain at Aberdare, in Glamorganshire. The evidence of the fall of fish on this occasion was very conclusive. A specimen of the fish was exhibited, and was found to be the common stickleback. A discussion ensued, in which various cases were related of the transference of living objects by the agency of the whirlpools produced by storms.

Dr. ADAMS read a paper containing remarks by himself and his son 'On the Birds of Banchory.'—The paper was remarkable for an eloquent defence of the study of Zoology, not on account of its utility, but for its beauty.

A communication was read from Mr. PRIOR 'On the best Method of Capturing, Keeping, and Observing the various forms of *Beroe* and *Cydippe*.'

Two papers were read from Mr. NOURSE—'On the Colour of the Leaves of Plants,' which was severely criticized by Dr. DICKIE, and another giving an interesting account 'Of the Habits and Instincts of the Chameleon.'

Dr. DAUBENY read a paper by Mr. MASTERS 'On Vegetable Morphology,'—in which he endeavoured to assign the relative value to the labours of Wolfe, Linnaeus, Goethe, and Robert Brown, in the present position of the science of vegetable morphology.

'On the Temperature of Flowers,' by Mr. E. J. LOWE.—This was an account of a series of apparently carefully conducted experiments on the temperature of the flowers of plants, as compared with the air and the earth in which they grew. The difference of the temperature was so great in some cases that a dog was thrown out as to the accuracy of the observations.

'Personal Observations on the Zoology of Aberdeenshire,' by Mr. S. M. BURNETT.

Dr. OGILVIE read the 'Report of the Dublin Bay Dredging Committee.'

'On the other's neighbour's Buist.'

'Reprocurious E. NER.'

'An E. G. Alcohol.'

'On the Prof. BEN.'

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'On the Aversion of certain F'nts to each other's neighbourhood,' by Dr. BR.

'On the Bombaceæ of Western India,' by Dr. BUIST.

#### SUB-SECTION D.—PHYSIOLOGY.

MONDAY.

'Reproduction in Gasteropoda, and on some curious Effects in Endosmosis,' by Mr. R. GAR-  
NER.

'An Experimental Inquiry into the Action of Alcohol on the Nervous System,' by Dr. MARCET.

'On the Molecular Theory of Crystallization,' by Prof. BENNETT.

'On the Organs of the Senses, and on the Mental Perceptive Faculties,' by Mr. W. E. C. NOURSE.

'On the Specific Chemical and Microscopical Phenomena of Gouty Inflammation,' by Dr. GAR-  
BOD.—Dr. Garrod attempted to show that specific chemical and microscopical phenomena *invariably* accompany gouty inflammation; these consist in the deposition of nitrate of soda in a crystalline form, within the cartilages and tendinous structures of the joints; and that this deposition is altogether nathognomonic, never being found in any other disease than true gout; and again, that such deposition is probably the cause, rather than the effect, of the inflammatory action. Lastly, the author pointed out the great importance of ascertaining the true nature of the disease, as a means of conducting to its rational and successful treatment.

'On the supposed Distinction between Sensory and Motor Nerves,' by Mr. G. H. LEWES.

TUESDAY.

'A Demonstration of the Muscular Sense,' by Mr. G. H. LEWES.—Mr. Lewes endeavoured to show that this sense resides in the muscles, and that it is so far different from ordinary sensibility.

Prof. SHARPEY expressed his confidence in the experiments of Bernard, showing that the sensibility of the anterior roots of the nerves is not their own, but derived from the posterior root.—Prof. BENNETT thought the public should not be misled, in supposing that the views of Mr. Lewes were new. On the contrary, it appeared to him that he was bringing us back to the times of Aristotle, when it was supposed that the various acts and feelings of the mind were seated in the different organs and viscera of the body. Many physiologists had believed in the existence of a sixth sense; but few in modern times had imagined it to be possible for any sense whatever to exist without a brain. A metaphysical examination of our own thoughts must convince us that there could be no sense or sensation similar to those of sight or hearing, without the consciousness of impression, and that the conscious mind could not exist without a brain. The circumstance of frogs and animals hopping, flying, or performing other adaptive motions after decapitation, he considered should be regarded as belonging to reflex actions, and not as accompanied by sensation. The vagueness with which the author used the terms sense, sentient, sensibility, and sensation was the probable cause of the fallacy which lay at the foundation of his reasoning.

'On the Structure and Mode of Formation of Starch Granules, according to the Principle of Molecular Coalescence,' by Mr. G. RAINES.

'On the Homologies of the Coasts of Tunicata, with Remarks on the Physiology of the Pallial Sinus System of Brachiopoda,' by Mr. J. D. MAC-  
DONALD.

'A Second Physiological Attempt to unravel the Perplexities of the Hypothesis of Berkeley,' by Dr. FOWLER.

'On the Sequence observed in the Phenomena observed in Man under the Influence of Alcohol,' by Dr. SMITH.

'On the Comparative Action of Hydrocyanic Acid on Albumen and Caseine,' by M. A. GAGES.

'On certain Subjective Sensations, with especial reference to the Phenomena of Second Sight, Visions, and Apparitions,' by Dr. CAMPS.

'On certain Imperfectly Recognized Functions of the Optic Thalamus,' by Dr. CAMPS.

#### SECTION E.—GEOGRAPHY AND ETHNOLOGY.

MONDAY.

'Notes on the Lower Danube,' by Major J. STOKES.

'Memorandum of Earthquake at Erzerum,' by Consul DALYELL.

'Description of Ghadames,' by Consul S. FREE-  
MAN.

'Notes from the Zambesi Expedition under Dr. Livingstone,' by Dr. KIRK and Capt. BEDING-  
FIELD.

'Description of Passes through the Rocky Moun-  
tains,' by Dr. HECTOR.

'Rapid Communication between the Atlantic and the Pacific, *via* British North America,' by Major SYNGE.

'Notes on the Proposed Railway Communica-  
tions between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, *via* the United States of America,' by Dr. SHAW.—  
The paper contained a large amount of geographical and statistical information, and showed that the Americans strongly recommend the adoption of the route of the thirty-second parallel by Capts. Pope and Parke in 1853, from Preston to Pimas Villages; by Major Emory, from Pimas Villages to the mouth of the Gila, in 1848; by Lieut. Williamson, in California, in 1853.

'On the Geography of Southern Peru,' by Mr. W. BOLLAERT.

TUESDAY.

'On the Geometrical Projection of Two-thirds of the Sphere, and its Application to the Representation of the Stars,' by Col. JAMES.

'On the Roman Camp at Ardoch, and the Military Works near it,' by Col. JAMES.

'On the Commercial Resources of Zanzibar on the East Coast of Africa,' by Capt. SPEKE.

'On the Native Inhabitants of the Tarai of the Sub-Himalaya,' by Mr. J. B. DAVIES.

'On the Arabic-speaking Population of the World,' by Mr. A. AMEUNEY (a Syrian).—The Arabic has 29 letters, and, with the combinations and the vowels, make about 36. Seven of these letters are to a foreigner, exceedingly difficult to pronounce. The Arabic being an original language, it has, of course, the masculine and the feminine genders—and the dual. It has more. It has a personal pronoun, and a pronoun attached to the verb, like the Latin *amo*. It has feminine in the singular and in the plural to the verbs—so, if two people happen to be in the next room, and they were talking, you would know whether they be ladies or gentlemen, or whether one be a lady or a gentleman; or whether the speaker be a lady or a gentleman, or whether the party spoken to be a lady or a gentleman. Not so in any other language—partly only in Greek. We have singular, dual, and plural—plural below No. 10, and above No. 10; we have a plural of plurals, and a collective plural and its plural. Let us see what we can do with these roots. Take the word *love*. We want to use it in English: we add *r*, and make lover, or *ing*, and make loving; or prefix *be*, and make beloved; but you have to say the place of love, the cause of love, and the course of love (they say it never runs smooth)! You have kill, and a knife, and butcher, and slaughter-house! We have 9 letters, say *a*, *b*, *c*, and, by adding or prefixing one or more of these to the original, we make a word. One for the place, one for the instrument, one for the cause, and one for the passion. Take the word *love*, again, as a verb. You can only say might, should, or would, love; cause to love, command to love, ask to be loved, to be passionately in love, and to fall in love (which is the worst, I think). But with us, we have 13 other letters, and, by prefixing or adding one or more to the original word, we change the meaning. We only change the accent of the noun, and make it a verb. You have something like it—a present, and to present, a record, and to record. There are 65,000 words in the English Dictionary. We have 150,000 in the Arabic, and, when the derivatives are added, the language becomes really formidable. There are a few languages in which there is more than 4 or 5 names for an object. You have sword, scimitar, and cutlass, but we have 150 names for this instrument of death. We have 160 for an old

woman, 120 for the hyena, and I should feel ashamed to tell you how many for the lion, the camel, and the horse. It is all very well for a poet, who wants to rhyme his verses, to have many words at his command, but the language becomes very formidable for the scholar and the foreigner. The Arabs, who, of course, lived at first in Arabia, did not differ from other primitive nations. They traded with, warred against, hated, and loved their neighbours. Their wars were mostly with the Persians and the Abyssinians, for their poems refer to these nations in particular. They had their national assemblies, as we have here now. There was one in particular like the British Association—that is, comparing small with great things. During the month of Moharem they ceased their wars, and they met at Ackos, where the great poets recited their poems, and arbitrators decided which was the first, second, and third best. The first was then inscribed in letters of gold, and hung up at the Kaaba. We have seven of these poems (Moallakat), and many other lesser ones. Few nations have ever produced their equal—I speak not lightly of the poetry of other nations. It was my great desire to read Sir Walter Scott's poetry that urged me to learn the English language. They are passionately fond of their country. They have ideas equally as good as these lines,—

Breathes there a man, &c.;

or,

O! Caledonia, stern and wild.

I have read several of the best poets in English, French, Italian, and Latin, but all appear to me to write too much. An Arab poet says all he wishes to say in a few verses. I am sure all Arab poetry is burning with a strong passion. The nearest to it is Pope's 'Eloisa and Abelard.' The wars of Arabs have ever been either for women or horses, and their poetry is full of expressions about them. The eyes, the lips, the breath, the neck, and skin of a woman have more names than I could tell you of. Terreack! breath of life; wine, coffee, water of life, and paradise. The Arabs in their native simplicity are frugal, can endure fatigue, hunger, and thirst, but the Arab can never become rich, because he is so generous. From the days of Abraham to this day his great delight is to entertain strangers. They have no hotel charges. Brotherhood is one of their strong ties. One becomes a brother either by a present or service rendered. People who live in towns present—give to one of the chiefs, and he can travel amongst the tribes. Antar had made a war on a tribe, defeated it, and was leading the people into captivity. A man called out to him, El Goman, Antar!—that is, The Covenant. Antar asked him, where and when he ever covenanted with him. I was, said the man, once at such a well watering my horse. You came and wanted to do the same, but your rope was too short. Bread and salt is another thing. The refuge another. Yet France wanted others to give up the refugees whom she turned out herself. Whether Christianity ever made any great progress among them we do not know. There are, however, many Christian tribes, specially in Hauran and Korak. But as soon as Mohammed appeared, the Arab mind took a different turn, and they became a conquering race. They, in fact, burst the bounds of their desert, and went out—the Koran in one hand and the sword in the other—either submission or death. After a little while came the tribute, or redemption. People redeemed themselves by paying an annual tax, very small, and they lived in peace. Then they extended to Syria, Mesopotamia, Egypt, Tripoli, to the borders of the Alantire, &c. The Arabs are like the Anglo-Saxons. They conquer, give their language, manners, and customs to the conquered nation, and in a short time they make them Arabs.

'On Chinese Genealogical Tables,' by Dr. M'GOWAN.

In answer to questions regarding the rebellion in China, Sir JOHN BOWRING said that he did not believe there was any one of the leaders of the rebels, or any man holding an influential position, that was connected with the locality in their possession. The rebels have found no support or sympathy from the inhabitants of the quarters into which they have advanced. They live solely upon

plunder, and their progress from town to town and place to place is one track of desolation. They are very ignorant—they have no common bond of union—and wherever the rebellion has been experienced, the progress of education and civilization has been retarded. So far as he (Sir John) had watched the progress of the rebels, it has been marked by barbarism and destruction to property and life. He looked with great apprehension upon the security of China; for where Government was so corrupt, and its laws but so partially obeyed—where justice was so impure, and religion so little thought of, he was afraid in that country there was nothing to be anticipated but great disorganization and increasing misery.

'On Meteorology, with reference to Travelling, and the Measurement of the Height of Mountains, by Admiral FITZROY.

'On the Laws of Consanguinity and Descent of the Iroquois,' by Dr. W. CAMPS.

Mr. CRAWFORD (late Governor of Singapore), who had presided during the greater part of the day, declared this Section adjourned till next year, at Oxford.

SECTION F.—ECONOMIC SCIENCE AND STATISTICS.  
MONDAY.

'Results of the Society of Arts Examinations,' by Mr. J. POPE HENNESSY.

'Some Statistics on Colour-Blindness,' by Prof. G. WILSON, M.D.—Colour-blindness was a term applied not to what he called a disease of vision, but rather a remarkable type of vision. He went on to give an explanation of the nature of this visual peculiarity, illustrating his remarks by laughable instances. "Colour-blind people," he said, "don't see the red in pink—they think it is white; and if we darken red with black, they stop seeing any red in it, and call it black before we do." This peculiarity, however, shows itself chiefly—firstly, in the confounding of red and green;—secondly, in matching or confounding dark red and brown;—thirdly, in confounding red and black;—and, lastly, in confounding different shades of the same colour. As examples of this peculiarity, the Professor mentioned the case of an upholsterer, in Edinburgh, who covered a coffin with scarlet cloth, and of a gentleman who asked a lady with a red velvet bonnet for whom she was in mourning. The earliest case of colour-blindness on record was mentioned in an old number of the *Philosophical Transactions*. A wedding was about to take place, and the father of the bride was about to send the bridegroom home for coming in a black dress. The bride remonstrated with her father, and assured him that it was not a black dress, but what she thought a genteel colour—claret. As regards red and green, colour-blindness in this respect is generally discovered with flowers. Dalton discovered his colour-blindness by hearing parties call a geranium red, which he had thought light blue. Dugald Stewart could not tell a cherry from its leaves—except by the form.

'The Past, Present, and Prospective Financial Condition of British India,' by the PRESIDENT.

TUESDAY.

LORD MONTEAGLE took the chair, in the absence of Col. Sykes.

'On Popular Investments,' by Sir J. S. FORBES.

'On the Trade Currency of China (with specimens of the coinage),' by Dr. MACGOWAN.

'On Decimal Coinage,' by Col. SHORTREDE.

Sir J. BOWRING hoped he might be forgiven for saying a few words on this subject, inasmuch as, upon a motion of his in the House of Common, the subject was first taken up of introducing the decimal system, by the issue, namely, of the florin. The introduction of the decimal principle generally would be of the greatest possible benefit as regards the advance of public instruction, facility of keeping the public accounts, and putting into the hands of the people a means of knowledge which they do not now possess. The advance would be as great as that of the Copernican system over the Ptolemaic. At this moment six hundred millions of people—more than one half—of the human race have adopted the decimal system, in spite of all resistance. Though every other old system had had a great hold from public usage on the minds of a

large proportion of those great multitudes, still the power of this principle, represented by the ten fingers, which the Almighty has given us—insomuch as we carry with us, every one of us, decimal tables—prevailed. He could not but believe that the decimal system would become universal. Lately he had occasion to look into the accounts of the Japanese Empire. In his hands there were communications made in the time of the Stuarts, and accounts kept by Adams and others, and there is not an account but is kept in decimals. Accounts are all kept in decimals in China, and every one knows the great accuracy with which accounts are there kept. They have a small instrument called Sampan, and also the Abacus—known to the ancient Romans—by which all accounts are kept with the greatest accuracy and rapidity. As regarded the opinions of his honourable and gallant friend, Col. Shortrede, it was agreed almost unanimously by the Parliamentary Committee, that the integer to be used must be the pound sterling, which is universally known almost throughout the world. There is scarcely a country with which we trade that does not give us so much of its own currency as against the pound sterling. He (Sir J. Bowring) had come to the conclusion, that the pound sterling should be divided into thousandths parts, which requires only a change in the copper currency—no other than this, that the farthing shall be declared to be the thousandth, instead of the 960th part, and the halfpenny the 500th part of the pound—this forms the only legislation necessary in introducing the decimal system. He should regret if country after country, and even Spain, difficult as she is to be moved—the most prejudiced country, perhaps, in the world—nay, we find even the remotest colonies of Spain adopting the decimal system,—he repeated, he thought it would not be becoming, with all those countries adopting the decimal system, if this country, with all its intelligence and great commerce, should stand alone. How ridiculous that you shall go on adding up one column, and dividing it by four; adding up another, and dividing it by twelve; adding up a third, and dividing it by twenty! That in that system you shall keep your accounts, and not adopt that which is common in other parts of the world, by dividing the integer into hundredths and thousandths. In the Bank of England, as he had been told by one well able to speak, the introduction of the decimal system would lead to the reduction of one clerk in eleven. The introduction of the florin had facilitated the work there so far, that wherever they could, they dispensed with one column of figures. A Report had lately appeared, emanating no doubt from eminent men—it was but justice, however, to say that Lord Monteagle, to whom they were so much indebted, did not concur in it—but a more one-sided Report he had never seen. The Report excluded all evidence in favour of the decimal system, and included every supposable difficulty. He repeated, a more one-sided Report was never presented to Parliament.

'Notes on the Vital and Economic Statistics of Aberdeen,' by Mr. J. VALENTINE.

'On the British Trade with India,' by Mr. R. VALPY.

'On the Progress of Public Opinion with Respect to the Evils produced by the Traffic in Intoxicating Drink, as at present regulated by Law,' by the Rev. W. CAINE.

'On some Questions relating to the Incidence of Taxation,' by Mr. J. POPE HENNESSY.

'On Decimal Coinage,' by Mr. R. L. JOHNSON.

'Statistics of the Whale Fishery at Peterhead,' by Mr. C. W. PEACH.

The Section adjourned to Oxford.

SECTION G.—MECHANICAL SCIENCE.  
MONDAY.

'On a New Gas-Burner, and a Method of producing an Illuminating Gas cheaply from the Decomposition of Water,' by the Abbé MOIGNO.

'On an Automatic Injector for feeding Boilers,' by Mr. GIFFARD.

'On a Helico-Meter, an Instrument for Measuring the Thrust of the Screw-Propeller,' by the Abbé MOIGNO.

'On an Application of the Moving Power arising from Tides to Manufacturing, Agricultural and other Purposes, and specially adapted to obviate the Thames Nuisance,' by Dr. SEGUIN.

'Description of the Granite Quarries of Aberdeen and Kincardineshire,' by Mr. A. GIBB.—The working of the quarries in Aberdeen commenced 250 years ago; but little progress was made for 100 years. The houses in Aberdeen were constructed principally of wood till 1741, when a fire taking place, the town-council ordained that the fronts of the houses should be of stone or brick. In 1764 granite was recommended for paving the streets of London, and was used for Waterloo Bridge in 1817, and subsequently for the docks at Sheerness and London Bridge. There are upwards of twenty quarries supplying the different varieties of granite: the blue, the red or Peterhead granite, the light red, soft grey, and white. The granite, for the most part, lies in irregular masses in the quarries, and generally of columnar structure. The quarrying is principally carried on by blasting. The drainage of the quarries is chiefly accomplished by means of siphons of lead-pipe, from 1 to 2 or 3 inches in diameter. The author suggests the use of a locomotive engine on rails for drainage purposes, as well as for crane and lifting work. The quarries are not worked to any great depth, though the best and largest masses are found at the lower depths; and proper mechanical contrivances for working deeper might be used with advantage. With reference to the durability of the granite, there appears no appreciable decay; on the oldest specimens of several hundred years the tool-marks are as sharp and fresh as at first. The tools used in dressing the granite for a long period were hammers, picks and axes only; but in 1820 steel chisels were introduced, which effected a considerable improvement. Machinery was tried for dressing, but it failed, being in the form of a planing machine, the granite requiring a distinct blow to separate the parts. The number of workmen employed in the quarries is about 500 daily, and the number of horses about 50. About 50,000 tons are quarried annually, of which about 30,000 are exported; and the export is increasing at the rate of 500 tons annually.

'On a New Gas-Meter, with a Description of an Improved Method of obtaining a true Liquid Level,' by Mr. A. ALLAN.

'On the Comparative Value of Proportion, with a Description of a Direct-Acting Propeller,' by Mr. J. ROBB.

Mr. R. ROBERTS maintained that the screw and the paddle-wheel were not so imperfect in their action as Mr. Robb considered them; and he was of opinion that the paddle-wheel with radial floats was more effective than that with feathering floats. He considered a well-made screw as the most effective propeller. Mr. Robb's propeller was not new, and would soon go to pieces.—Mr. OLDHAM had seen the same thing tried and fail.—Mr. W. SMITH said a similar propeller had been made eighteen years ago, when it failed.—Mr. NEILSON did not agree with Mr. Roberts as to the relative merits of the radial and feathering paddles. In his experience the feathering wheels were the best.—Sir E. BELCHER said, that the vibration caused by the paddle-wheel arose from the back action on leaving the water, and not on entering.—Mr. OLDHAM thought that friction gearing would be of value in driving the screw in the place of direct acting-engines.—Mr. NEILSON had had experience in friction gearing, and approved it. It was exciting much interest among the engineers on the Clyde.—Mr. G. RENNIE stated that he had tried friction gearing in the Archimedes, but it had failed.—Mr. DIXON had seen it tried in some rolling-mills, but it did not succeed.—Mr. W. FAIRBAIRN thought that it was worth consideration; though he feared that the great pressure necessary would cause much friction on the shaft, and thus waste power.

An experimental illustration of the Gyroscope

was given to explain to military parades for

Experiments of Mr. W. FAIRBAIRN were made between the steam and the sun. The novel and temperatures are by glass vessels at pressure spheres. The from the last anticipated uniformly theoretical Dumas, and meeting of Section re superheated compared from that square inc.

Prof. M. pressed the Fairbairn's continue to Lima, and 'On Sun—The author made on arrangement created a current of spaces. The water a road otherwise created in temperature water appears and unexpected to the system.

A discus-  
SMITH that Dr. researched

'On a Mr. C. his lamp.

'On the Measure STONEY, metre was and the comparison avoided. He would cause and the old would be twenty-five.

'On C. HART. 'On a Mr. C. and the old succeeded.

XUM

was given by Mr. A. GERARD, who endeavoured to explain its action by reference to more elementary principles of mechanics than were usually assumed for the purpose.

## TUESDAY.

'Experimental Researches to determine the Density of Steam at various Temperatures,' by Mr. W. FAIRBAIRN.—The object of these experiments was to verify or correct the theoretical formulae and speculations in regard to the relation between the specific volume and temperature of steam. The experiments were conducted on a novel and original principle, applicable to any temperatures and pressures, capable of being sustained by glass vessels. The determinations were made at pressures varying from ten to fifty atmospheres. They uniformly show a decided deviation from the law for perfect gases, and in the direction anticipated by Prof. Thomson, the density being uniformly greater than that indicated by the theoretical formula of Gay-Lussac or Dalton, Dumas, and others. The author hopes at the next meeting of the Association to lay before the Section results which will determine the value of superheated steam, its density and volume, as compared with the pressure, at all pressures varying from that of the atmosphere to 500 pounds on the square inch.

Prof. MACQUORNE-RANKINE and Dr. JOULE expressed their opinion of the great value of Mr. Fairbairn's researches, and trusted that he would continue them.

'On the Steam Machinery of the Callao, Bogota, and Lima,' by Mr. J. ELDER.

'On Surface Condensation,' by Dr. J. P. JOULE.—The author described the experiments he had made on this important subject. A peculiar arrangement he had introduced gave a very increased effect to a given surface. In this arrangement a copper spiral was placed in the water spaces. The spiral had the effect of giving the water a rotatory motion, which was thus compelled to travel over a larger surface than it would otherwise. He also pointed out that he had succeeded in producing a better vacuum than the temperature of the condensing and condensed water appeared to warrant, and that thus a fresh and unexpected advantage was proved to belong to the system of surface condensation.

A discussion took place, in which Prof. MACQUORNE-RANKINE, Messrs. A. TAYLOR and W. SMITH took part; and a wish was expressed that Dr. Joule would continue his important researches and give the results at a future meeting.

'On a Submarine Lamp,' by Mr. RETTIE.

Mr. C. BARNETT explained the arrangement of his lamp for the same purpose.

'On the Advantages of the 40-inch Metre as a Measure of Length,' by Mr. G. JOHNSTONE STONEY.—The author showed that if a 40-inch metre was adopted it could readily be decimalized and the inch retained, and thus all difficulty in the comparison of the old and new measure would be avoided. The tenth would be 4 inches, which he would call a hand, the hundredth he would call a nail, and the one-thousandth he would call a line. The old yard would thus be nine hands, a foot would be three hands, and one inch would equal twenty-five lines.

'On Gas Carriages, for lighting Railway Carriages with Coal Gas instead of Oil,' by Mr. G. HART.

'On Coal-Pit Accidents,' by Capt. J. ADDISON. 'On a Deep Sea Pressure Gauge,' by Mr. H. JOHNSON.

Sir E. BELCHER explained an instrument constructed under his direction some years since for ascertaining the depth of water by compression, and also the temperature and the quality. He pointed out the difficulties to be got over in the construction of such instruments, and how he had succeeded in obviating them. His (Sir E. Belcher's) instrument had been tested to 1,200 fathoms, and proved successful.

'On a Patent Disc Pan for evaporating Saccharine Solutions and other Liquids at a Low Temperature,' by Mr. DAVIS.

Mr. A. TOPP described various Models of Fire-escapes, Boats, &c.

'On Indian River Steamers and Tow-Boats, giving an Account of their improved Construction for Light Draft, capability for Cargo, and Fittings conducive to Manageability in Shallow Rapid Rivers, &c., and of the Practical Value of the Dynamometer in showing the Resistance of Vessels in Tow, at Different Speeds and Loads, with the Result of Test-Trials made in England,' by Mr. A. HENDERSON.

## MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

ROYAL ENGLISH OPERA, COVENT GARDEN.—Under the Management of Miss Louisa Pyne and Mr. W. Harrison. The production of the English version of Meyerbeer's Opera of DINORAH having been honoured with complete success, the Management have the gratification of announcing its representation every Evening until further notice. MONDAY, Oct. 10th, 1859. 'Le Pardon de Ploërmel,' Miss Louisa Pyne; Goatherd, Misses Pillings and Thirlwall; Hoel, Mr. W. Harrison; Corentin, Miss Pillings; St. Albyn; and Corentin, Mr. W. Harrison. Conductor, Alfred Mellon. A Divertissement. Mlle. Rosalia Lequin, Pasquale Pierron, Clara Morgan, Mons. Van Parys, Stage Manager, Mr. Edward C. Young, Acting Manager, Mr. Edith Murray. Duorum at Half Past Seven commence at Eight. No charge for Booking and Box-keeper's Fees. Prices of Admission:—Stalls, 7s.; Private Boxes, 4l. 4s.; 3l. 3s.; Pit, 2s. 6d.; Amphitheatre Stalls, 3s.

ence evidently disposed to admire. A burlesque by Mr. Leicester Buckingham, on 'Virginius,' followed, — a subject we should have thought too sacred for travestie. It is entitled 'Virginius; or, the Trials of a Fond Papa'; and served to bring out Miss St.-Casse as an effective singer. It is profusely studded with bad puns, and is very coarse in its thread of humour. Miss Lydia Thompson, a *dameuse*, concluded the evening's entertainment in a ballet, that was successful.

SURREY.—The new season at this theatre was inaugurated on Saturday, with, in many important respects, a new company, and also a new drama. The interior of the house has been redecorated in the Renaissance style, and has a very elegant appearance. The new piece is called a tragic play, and entitled 'The Bridal of Beatrice,' — but is, in fact, an adaptation of Lessing's celebrated 'Emilia Galotti.' This work, which paraphrases the story of the Roman Virginia, is cited in his 'Dramaturgie,' as conveying the author's notion of what a perfect dramatic structure ought to be. All the events are links of a chain, and, even to the passing of a dagger from hand to hand, all is accounted for. The conduct of the plot is managed with conscious art. In the first scene, we are advised of the arrival of a letter from a discarded Countess, whose portrait and that of her rival are also shown; but the Countess herself, though the action turns upon her interference, does not appear until the fourth act, and then her part is confined to a single scene, constructed with all the simplicity of a Greek tragedy, and containing at once the statement of her wrongs, her sufferings, and her revenge. The entrance of the injured lady is much needed; for by the time she appears the action and dialogue have become so languid that her presence on the scene acts like sudden magic, and gives an impetus that urges on the catastrophe with an unexpected force, and thus ensures the ultimate success of the play. The adapter has compressed the five acts of the original into three, and has, besides, made room for comic and bandit scenes, which carry out in visible action what Lessing had left to recital. To make these the more interesting, mechanical accessories have been called in aid, and they appear to be to the taste of the audience. In the new version, the action of the play is transferred from Italian to Spanish ground, and the names of the characters are, accordingly, altered. The heroine, *Beatriz Novarra*, is prettily performed by Miss Sarah Thorne, and the *Countess Osaria* powerfully supported by Miss Edith Heraud. Mr. Creswick, as the father, *Estevan Novarra*, found a character suited to his style and talents, and made a strong impression. To provide him with an effective death-scene, the *dénouement* of Lessing's play is much altered, and he is made to kill the *Duke de Cárdenas* (Mr. B. Potter), receiving himself the mortal wound in the encounter. The *Countess Osaria* is also again introduced, that the recreant Duke may perish at her feet. The new drama, for the first act and a half, had but small hold on the sympathies of the audience; but then the new turn given to affairs began strongly to interest them, and so far justified Lessing's method in the arrangement of his incidents. The house was inconveniently crowded; and the applause of the true transpontine kind, vehement and prolonged.

STRAND.—Mr. T. Morton gave to this stage another new drama, on Monday, entitled 'The Great Russian Bear; or, another Retreat from Moscow.' The Princess *Christine*, of Brunswick, (Miss Maria Simpson) desirous of escaping from the Grand Duke *Alexis*, her affianced husband, who is a brute, is fain to take refuge in an hospitale near the frontier. She is preceded by her faithful attendant, who, the better to effect the object, inspires an affectionate interest in the landlord, *Nicholas Peterskin* (Mr. J. Clarke). The same purpose is also aided by one *George Trevelyan*, (Mr. Parsell) a young officer of the Imperial Guard, who loves the Princess, and contrives to mystify the stupid burgomaster, *Slopnitz* (Mr. H. J. Turner), so that he mistakes *Wrika*, the servant (Miss M. Wilton), for the Princess. The latter is thus enabled to pass the frontier, in the disguise of a

broom-girl. *Wrights* rewards the inn-keeper for his service in the affair with her hand. The new drama evidently pleased the audience, which was numerous.

NEW ADELPHI.—'The Willow-Copse,' a drama produced many years ago at the old theatre, was revived on Thursday week, with an alteration in the cast, Mr. Webster for Mr. Hughes in the character of *Luke Fielding*. The honest yeoman, suffering from the dishonour of his daughter, passes through many phases of feeling and passion. Now, this is just such a character as Mr. Webster delights in; and, certainly, he affords us abundant opportunity of admiring his varied talent in the part. No man marks better the nice gradations by which an individual submits to social or moral degradation, until he sinks into helplessness and hopelessness. Miss Woolgar and Mr. Toole have also parts to which a long history attaches;—and have to depict a life and a career, as *Meg*, a bluf rustic, afterwards converted into a London milk-maid, and *Augustus de Rosherelle*, who passes from gent to scamp. This last rôle was originally supported by Mr. Wright, with Mr. Paul Bedford, as *Staggers*, his coadjutor. The latter plays equally well into Mr. Toole's hands; and the drama loses nothing by its present cast. It is, in fact, well suited to the company.

STANDARD.—A new actor from America, Mr. Joseph Proctor, has appeared this week, in the melo-dramatic part of 'Nick of the Woods,' but evidently possessing talents that entitle him to attempt better things,—though he must learn to check a tendency to extravagance. The play is of American origin, and appears to have been written for the actor expressly.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC GOSSIP.—Mr. Smith has been bringing Mdlle. Tietjens, Signor Giulini, and the rest of that party, to London, for two operatic performances at Drury Lane, and a performance of the 'Stabat' of Signor Rossini at the St. James's Hall.—The vocal concert at the Crystal Palace on Wednesday, conducted by Mr. Benedict, went off well. Among the pieces expressly claiming notice, was a setting of 'Ye Mariners of England,' by Mr. Pierson, so pleasing, simple, and spirited in its melody, as to encourage the idea that he has profited by past disappointments, and taken "a new lease" of musical effort. Should more compositions of this quality be forthcoming, he can without question take a good and a popular place among English-born composers,—a place in every respect more enviable than such as can belong to the best second-hand adapters of German transcendentalism.

The fourth season of Sunday music in the Parks is over, and the Report shows satisfactorily that the recreation is mainly self-supporting. Whereas the subscriptions to the music in Regent's Park amounted to 371, the sum derived from the sale of programmes was 197. In Victoria Park the disproportion was as great; the subscriptions being 97, the programme money, 107.

The new Oratorio by Herr Molique, which is now completed, has for its subject 'Abraham.' The same Biblical story, we observe, has been set by Herr Blummer, whose Oratorio is announced as among the novelties of Berlin, during the coming winter.

Little or no operatic promise arrives from Germany. Politics, no doubt, are made there to play the serviceable part planned by *Caleb Balderstone* for the fire at *Wolf's Crag*, and may, in part, really stand as excuse for supineness;—but certain it is, that betwixt old and new ideas, matters seem approaching "a dead lock" in the land of Mozart and Beethoven and Weber and Mendelssohn.—In one column we read of the success of this singer in the sickly 'Stradella' of M. von Flotow,—in another journal, how the other *basso* has succeeded in the stale "beer" song of the mawkish 'Martha,' of the same composer:—signs these that he still rules the musical stage from Hamburg to Pesth.—Herr Carl Formes has returned from America.—There is no present mention of the new opera by Herr Wagner; and seeing that ten years or thereabouts

have elapsed since 'Lohengrin' was produced—a work, moreover, which has not been universally accepted—it is time, surely, that the oracle should deliver some new message to his congregation. He is at present in Paris, with the view of finding some means of there producing his 'Tannhauser.'—Herr Abert, whose 'Anna von Landskron' made a certain local sensation, ought by this time to be "up and doing" again; but it may yet be questioned whether a new work from his pen would count as an event; since we have seen extracts from his former opera, which, however evenly written, hardly establish the originality or genius of their composer.—Austria, it is said, in the vindictive spirit of truculent nationality, is about to cut her own throat and to avenge Solferino by abolishing Italian opera in Vienna. This will be bad for the German singers of the *Karneval Thor Theater* in more ways than one,—first, as depriving them of models more vocal than their own singing examples,—secondly, because they will be put to extra duty to fill the *hiatus*. It is notified further, that they are only henceforth to be permitted to sing during two-thirds of their holidays:—the other third being devoted to compulsory rest.

The latest musical event in Italy has, characteristically enough, been the election to the new Parliament of Parma of Signor Verdi, who has always stood for a *Tyrtæus* among his countrymen. By way of revenge—or as a serious measure of political precaution under terror—Signor Verdi's last opera, 'Un Ballo in Maschera,' is strictly shut out by the Censorship from the *Teatro San Carlo* of Naples. The autumnal and winter prospects of that theatre seem dismal enough. The *prime donne* are to be Mesdames Steffanone and Spezia; the one new opera for the coming season is to be written by Signor Petrella. The attraction of 'Il Trovatore' and 'La Traviata' is said to be worn out. If this arise from opinion and not spite, we hold Neapolitan wit good.—The frequenters of *La Scala* theatre, at Milan, are promised a new opera, 'Riccardo III,' composed for Milan by M. Meiners, the 'Lorenzino' of Signor Pacini, and another work, not named. Mdlle. Poinsot is said to satisfy the public as *prima donna*.—Here we may say that an Italian tenor, whose name is unknown to us, Signor Morini, is about to appear at the *Italian Opera* of Paris,—and that an opera by Signor Braga will be produced there. 'Il Crociato,' by M. Meyerbeer, is also in the programme for the coming winter, without the permission of the composer.

At Brussels the opera-public is said this autumn to have been more than usually belligerent and merciless in deciding on the new artists who aspire to please the public. The party-violence shown on these occasions, as, also, in the provincial towns of France, has grown into a periodical row, under pretext of its being a gathering of votes.—It might have been fancied that nothing could be less manly than the *partie* at Milan, which we heard once sing through an opera with Madame Tedesco in the manly resolution to disconcert and drive a woman from the stage. But the other night, it appears, the frequenters of the beautiful *Théâtre de Monnaie* were yet more demonstrative, and so perplexed and harassed a poor lady brought out on approval, that she fainted on the stage. Surely, Music would be better served if, with all their boast of intellect and connoisseurship, and out of their Conservatory (which trains skilful instrumentalists) the Brussels public could contrive to get a Belgian opera written for its own theatre, and not be ever content to remain in the position of a second-hand Paris.

The obituary memoir read, according to custom, at the *Académie des Beaux-Arts* on Saturday last, was that of a musician, by a musician—a notice of Adam, the composer, prepared by the Perpetual Secretary, M. Halévy.

Among coming singers talked of in foreign journals are a Swedish lady, Mdlle. Rosa Baumann, who is about to appear in opera at Berlin, and a Swedish gentleman with a tenor voice, M. Schongaard, who is pursuing his studies in Paris.

It may be noted among other signs of our cosmopolitan and polyglot time (when a French and a

Belgian lady are said to be carrying everything before them at the Italian Opera in St. Petersburg) that an edition of Lortzing's 'Czar und Zimmermann' is about to be published in Paris.

Here is as peculiar a prize-scheme as was ever put forth to tempt rhymesters and musicians. A benevolent society, in aid of the watermen of the Dordogne (south of France), desires to have an ode, in praise of wine, to be written as follows; to be set to music, and the successful candidate rewarded:—"The ode is to be in seven verses—1st, the plantation of the vine; 2nd, its culture; 3rd, the grape-gathering; 4th, the pressing and fermentation; 5th, the barrelling [bottling is unaccountably left out. *Ed.*]; 6th, the forwarding of the wine by water, and its advantages; 7th, the effects of wine on the health."—It remains to be seen whether a companion-piece to Schiller's 'Song of the Bell' and Romberg's music will come of this. Having laughed, however, attention may be called to the appeal of the benevolent society of the Dordogne, as indicating the spread of part-singing in France.

The wounded self-consequence of the theatrical correspondent of the *Spectator*, who complained that after having been engaged to play "second chair," he had been reduced to the poorer estate of "fifth flower-pot," has been lately recalled to us by a development of French authors' "rights," of which the inimitable Caron de Beaumarchais, who established them, little dreamed. Mention has been made of the plurality of persons who are registered as the proprietors of 'Cricri,' the new faëry spectacle in Paris. The other day yet one more of the authors claimed dues which had been withheld him, in the courts of justice. This was the machinist, or contriver of tricks, on whose devices and transformations the success of the piece mainly depends. Law decreed the claim to be a good one.—Will the modiste who gets up an astounding and rare *toilette* for Mdlles. Figeac or Fargueil, which also (as every Paris playgoer knows) has no small share in exciting public delight and wonderment, next insist on being one of the "we" entitled to thirds, or fifths, or tenths, in proportion as invention has been weak and collaboration busy?

#### MISCELLANEA

*Periodicals by Post.*—According to the regulations affecting the transmission of stamped publications through the post, as laid down in the 'British Postal Guide,' there must be nothing printed on the cover of a newspaper but the name and address of the person to whom it is sent, the printed title of the publication, and the printed name and address of the publisher or vendor who sends it. It appears, however, to be the practice of many news-agents in London to have other words than those specified above printed on the covers of the newspapers sent by them through the post, such as "sent by," "from," &c., and there is reason to believe that such newspapers have hitherto been allowed to pass unchallenged. It has therefore, been decided, under the circumstances, to abstain from charging newspapers of this kind with postage until the 1st of January next, and to allow publishers of newspapers and news-agents in London to use up, during the interval, any stock of covers which they may have on hand with the objectionable words printed upon them. It must, however, be distinctly understood that the newspaper regulations will be strictly enforced from the commencement of the next year.

To CORRESPONDENTS.—H. O.—J. H.—M. W.—E. L.—A.—S. G.—Nullus.—Rear-Admiral FitzRoy—G. & S.—received.

\*\* Mr. M. D. Kavanagh seems hardly to have understood a remark we made in connexion with his Latin Grammar. Of course we do not deny—as our language implies—that grammarians often speak of forming certain moods and tenses from others; but what they mean is simply that they may be so obtained, by making some changes, not that they are actually derived in this way. It is not reasonable to assume—what cannot be proved as a matter of fact—that relations of thought which, from their very nature, are altogether independent of each other, are expressed by verbal forms related to each other as roots and derivatives. Convenient as it may be for a learner to know that one mood and tense can be got from another by a slight alteration, we protest against his being allowed to suppose that there is any real connexion between them.

THE CITY OF  
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TOO WEAK  
ALL NIGHT  
BRISTLES A...  
THE END OF  
RAILWAY E...  
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